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EMANCIPATION FOR ALL.

PERHAPS the most curious treaty of ancient or modern times is one which is said to have been recently signed between Austria and Russia, having for its object the extradition of political refugees between the two countries. Surely no Liberal, finding the atmosphere of Russia too oppressive, would think of seeking a free existence in Austria; nor can we believe that Russia, in spite of the enlightened policy of Alexander II., is as yet the country to which, above all others, a professed hater of Austrian despotism would look for an asylum. Nevertheless, the two oldest autocracies in Europe are evidently approaching, though with unequal steps and by different roads, to something like Constitutional Monarchy. Of the new Austrian Constitution we spoke last week. Neither the *Patrie* nor the *Pays*, nor any other French journal, can possibly know that the Emperor Alexander intends to promulgate a Constitution for Russia as soon as he has finally disposed of the Emancipation question; but those papers have, doubtless, made a very good guess; and it must be evident to any one who thinks about the matter for a moment that, after the peasants have received their liberty, the nobles will soon begin to protest against the state of political servitude in which they are kept. A Constitution will be a necessary, though not perhaps an immediate, consequence of the emancipation; indeed, the Emperor has already announced that, after the liberation of the serfs, his next great measure will refer to the position of the peasants of all classes before the law; but, whatever representative schemes may be submitted to Alexander II., we may be sure that he will not give too much political power to the old territorial magnates, who really have done all but threatened him, and who from the beginning have consistently opposed his great reform. Nor can it be supposed that he will overlook the Universities, from which all the best men in modern Russia have proceeded, nor even the Corporations of Merchants, of which the importance is now increasing every year.

In the meanwhile, every one out of Russia (and doubtless also in Russia itself) has been much astonished at the postponement of the emancipation, which was expected to have been solemnised in every church in the empire last Sunday. Did the Emperor hesitate at the last moment, or were the details of the plan really not arranged? The latter, we believe, is the true explanation of the delay. The minority of the committee intrusted with the preparation of the scheme (or, rather, with its examination, for the Emperor himself prepared it) have all along placed obstacles in the way of its adoption. They have not dared to pronounce themselves directly hostile to the principle of emancipation, or they would naturally have been compelled to resign their places as members of the Council; but they have taken unfair advantage of the Emperor's permission to discuss details, have prolonged the debates, have suggested difficulties which did not really exist even in their own imaginations, and have put forward the untenable proposition—we say untenable because it has already proved impracticable—that the general emancipation of the serfs ought to be left to the proprietors as individuals. Alexander II. was at last obliged to take the entire responsibility—that is to say, the whole glory—of the measure upon himself, and to tell his Ministers, and the nobles who had been elected and appointed to act with them, that as the will of one Czar (Boris Godounoff) had made the

Russian peasant a serf, so the will of another should make him a free man; that they had now not to consult with him and to question him, but to obey him; and that they must, somehow or other, settle the details of the liberation by the end of February. Naturally every one expected that the edict of emancipation would be issued at the beginning of March; and it seems to have been taken for granted (for no official announcement was ever made on the subject) that the anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the throne (March 2) would be the day.

We have not yet heard whether the peasants bore patiently the news that they were still to remain in servitude; but we shall not be inclined to place much credence in any report to the effect that no disturbances were caused by the non-issue of the promised decree. The excitement among the peasants has naturally been very great for months past; and if the anxiety of prolonged

fit, and might even, without much trouble, have reconquered their ancient capital. As it is, the anniversary of the battle of Grochow appears to us a thing which the Poles need not, and the Russians ought not, to commemorate; and it is evident that no simultaneous celebration of it by Russians and Poles can take place without a conflict, on one side or the other, being provoked.

In the meanwhile the vitality of Poland and of the Polish cause must impress every one. The mere occurrence of a street riot in Warsaw, whatever its origin, proves no more than a similar affair in Dublin might do as against the Government of England; but the resignation of the officials in a body, and the language of the petition addressed by the inhabitants of Warsaw to the Emperor Alexander, show that there is as strong a feeling of nationality as ever in Poland, and that the Poles, as a nation, still consider themselves grossly ill-treated

by Russia. Nevertheless, the petitioners declare themselves the faithful servants of the Russian Emperor, and, after narrating their grievances, end by expressing their desire for self government, under a representative system. The independence of Poland—always in a state of anarchy, always intriguing with Russia's enemies, under the especial patronage of the head of the Roman Church—was doubtless an annoyance, a danger, and a source of weakness to Russia; but, on the other hand, the protection of Russia has been nothing but a curse to Poland. However, Alexander II. has restored the use of the native language in Poland as the official tongue; he has permitted the publication of works by Polish poets which formerly were not allowed to be sold among the people for whom they were written; and we may hope that ere long he will give the Poles a Constitution, though doubtless not before he grants one for the whole of his Russian dominions.

The French seem at last to be really taking advantage of the species of Constitution which they possess, and which has hitherto been of very little use to them. The recent discussions in the Senate have been of great interest, and have, moreover, given Prince Napoleon an opportunity of making an able speech in explanation and support of the Emperor's foreign policy. Prince Napoleon's speech had certainly the merit of sincerity; for he did not attempt to conceal—indeed he laid great stress on the fact—that the first aim of Napoleonism in the present day is to “tear up the treaties” of 1815; if possible by peaceful means, otherwise (we are led to infer) by the sword. The Prince spoke well, and with every appearance of candour,

on the Italian question; but what will be chiefly admired in his speech in this country will be his remarks on the desirability of keeping up the English alliance. “We are not allied,” said the Imperial spokesman, “with this or that Minister in England, but with the great and liberal English people.” At the same time, Prince Napoleon reproved in a becoming spirit a senator, named Boissy, who foolishly declared that he should like nothing so much as to see France and England at war, adding that he was convinced his wish was shared by a majority of the French nation.

This is all very satisfactory, but it is also impossible not to see that there may be some difficulty in tearing up the treaties of 1815, and at the same time maintaining alliance with England, which was so greatly instrumental in dictating those treaties.



THE HON. MRS. YELVERTON. — (FROM A DRAWING TAKEN IN COURT BY C. NICHOLLS.)

expectation drove them to commit excesses, what effect must the bitterness of disappointment have had upon them? We feel convinced that the unfortunate tumult at Warsaw was not altogether unconnected with this affair of the postponed emancipation. In Russia and Poland the probability that some delay would take place at the last moment was, doubtless, no secret; and when many millions of serfs, scattered through a country of enormous extent, are suddenly informed that the liberty guaranteed to them for a certain day is to be withheld, it is, of course, impossible to say what outbreaks may not take place. It was the opinion of many well-informed Russians that any postponement of the long promised emancipation beyond the 2nd of March—a date which the Government allowed others to name even if it did not fix it itself—would lead to a general insurrection of peasants, in which case the inhabitants of Warsaw might have disported themselves as they had thought

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes a report from the Minister of Justice, addressed to the Emperor, on the subject of M. Mirès' arrest, the purpose of which is to repudiate in the strongest manner the common rumours that scandal was to be avoided by allowing the prosecution to drop. The Minister declares that, in full accordance with the early instructions of the Emperor himself, justice shall pursue the inquiry with a care and patience which shall be baffled by no obstacle.

Duke Tascher de la Pagerie and General Montauban have been appointed senators.

The *Moniteur* contains decrees appointing several Vice-Admirals, Rear-Admirals, and other high naval functionaries.

SPAIN.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Senate Government announced that they had resolved upon stationing cruisers on the coast of Africa. These cruisers would be authorised to visit Spanish and English vessels, in order to prevent the slave traffic. The Ministry took the opportunity again to repel the accusations of Lord Palmerston in regard to the slave trade, which accusations they stigmatise as unjust.

AUSTRIA.

The *Austrian Gazette* states that Prince Metternich, Austrian Ambassador at Paris, has received instructions to have regard at the Syrian Conference to the territorial rights of the Porte as the principal point of Austrian policy, but at the same time to leave it entirely to the Western Powers to agree with reference to the prolongation of the occupation of Syria.

An Imperial autograph letter from the Emperor of Austria, addressed to the Ban of Croatia, sanctions the re-establishment of the electoral law of 1848 in that province, excepting, however, the military frontiers. The Diet will decide on the question of the annexation of Dalmatia to Croatia. Another Imperial autograph letter sanctions the assembling of a Servian National Congress in Karlowitz, under the presidency of the Patriarch Rafacic, before the opening of the Hungarian Diet. The Congress is to be composed of Servian deputies only.

A deputation from Venice, with Count Bembo, Podesta of that city, at their head, is expected at Vienna to present petitions to the Emperor in the name of Venice.

PRUSSIA.

It is stated that Prussia does not acquiesce in the French proposal in reference to Syria. She has proposed a compromise tending to the prolongation of the French occupation until June.

The news from Warsaw has produced a great sensation in Prussia, where it was feared that, if the ebullition were part of an organised movement, it might spread into the Duchy of Posen. Several Polish deputies repaired at once, it is stated, to that province, in order that their presence might serve to maintain tranquillity. At a recent sitting of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies M. von Megolewski, deputy from Posen, stated that an individual named Stanislas Crupski had attempted in vain to induce Prince Gortschakoff to take military measures; and that the same individual had been arrested in the act of fixing seditious placards to the walls. When arrested he was found to have had upon his person a letter filled with money, which, according to rumour, came from the police agents of Cracow.

The King of Prussia was invested on Wednesday with the Order of the Garter. The ceremony took place in the White Salon of the Royal Palace, in presence of the Queen, the Royal Princes and Princesses, the principal military functionaries, the Ministers, and the leading officers of the Court. During the ceremony the Court did not wear mourning. The English Commission, who had brought the insignia of the order, were conveyed in State carriages to the palace, and received there by the Governor and the Lord Chamberlain. The Marquis of Breadlbane addressed a few words in English to the King, for the purpose of explaining formally the object of his mission, previous to the ceremony of investiture taking place.

DENMARK.

England, France, and Russia, as well as the German Confederation, have demanded that Denmark should lay before the Estates of Holstein the draft of the budget for 1861.

The Estates have been opened. The following are among the Royal proposals submitted to the Estates:—The project of a Constitution, to be valid for the whole Monarchy. The establishment of two Legislative Chambers, the Upper Chamber to be composed of thirty members appointed for life. A distinct position for the army of Holstein. Holstein to contribute two millions towards the expenses of the State. The Government also offers to Russia a revised special Constitution for interior affairs, with a responsible Minister, independence of Judges, freedom of press and of association, habeas corpus, religious liberty, financial competency for the Estates, and inviolability of its members.

RUSSIA.

According to the *Patrie* and the *Pays* the Emperor of Russia has made up his mind to prepare a project of Constitution for that country as soon as the question of the emancipation of the serfs shall have been settled.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* publishes a leading article stating that France and Russia have either come, or are on the point of coming, to an agreement in reference to the Oriental question, and that such an agreement admits the supposition of an understanding relative to the Polish question. The article concludes that the yielding of Russia to Poland must not, therefore, be considered as a symptom of weakness.

AMERICA.

The Governor of Georgia had seized three New York vessels, and had declared his intention to retain them until certain arms seized by the New York police should be given up.

An impression prevailed that a plan of adjustment would be adopted by the Peace Conference.

Arkansas had declared for union by an overwhelming majority.

President Lincoln continued to be welcomed everywhere en route. A demonstration against him was, however, expected to be made at Baltimore.

Mr. Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, was inaugurated at Alabama on the 18th ult. The spectacle is described as the grandest ever witnessed in the South.

The Southern Congress had declared the navigation of the Mississippi free.

The Indians were ravaging the territory of New Mexico. Application had been made at Washington for troops to assist in suppressing hostilities.

The 129th anniversary of the birthday of Washington was celebrated on the 22nd ult.

INDIA.

A telegram from Bombay says:—"The famine in the north-west provinces is assuming a more serious character. The failure of the spring crops appears to be certain. The inhabitants of Cutch and Travancore (?) are also starving. It is feared that the famine will exceed anything of the kind within memory. Singular frauds have been detected in the Electric Telegraph Office."

The *Bombay Times* says:—"The Paper Currency Bill is to be remodelled, or abandoned altogether. The tariff on piece-goods and yarn is to be reduced. The Inam Commission is breaking up."

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE ITALIAN KINGDOM.

Affairs are settling down at Naples. The English fleet was to leave on Saturday, and the Neapolitan nobles who had fled the country are rapidly returning. Placards secretly printed were being circulated, their purport being to demand the autonomy of Naples. Not much notice appears to have been taken of them, and tranquillity remains undisturbed.

We are reluctant to believe the statement in the *L'Italia*, that despatches have been received at Turin from General Cialdini containing the intelligence that the resistance of General Fergola at Messina is in accordance with orders received from Francis II. It must be admitted, however, that the obstinacy of the Governor can hardly be accounted for in any other way.

The bombardment of Civitella del Tronto commenced on Tuesday. General Fergola, is stated to have announced to General Cialdini that the siege works commenced against his stronghold constitute a violation of a convention concluded between Garibaldi and himself, and that should they be persevered in he would bombard the city. Cialdini replied that for every inhabitant of the city killed or wounded in the bombardment an officer of the garrison of the citadel should be shot.

It is said that Count Cavour has, in a diplomatic way, brought under notice the necessity of settling the Roman question.

A letter from Turin, in the *Sibole*, says:—

"General Klapka is still here, and, notwithstanding the prudent silence he maintains, even with his friends, it is known that, though serious difficulties exist, he has a firm hope in his cause; and I hear that what at present occasions most anxiety to the Hungarians leaders is to find the means of delaying for the proper time the outbreak of the revolution which has been so long menacing. As to Garibaldi, he will intervene when the opportune moment shall have arrived. Is Poland about to make a movement for obtaining emancipation and unity? On that question the following letter, written by Garibaldi, and which has been communicated to me, may throw some light:—"Capriera, Dec. 30.—My retirement to this place is not an abandonment of the cause of the populations to which I have devoted all my life. Having the fullest confidence in General Mierolawski, I will come to an understanding with him as regards all that concerns our brave Poles.—G. GARIBALDI."

THE PAPAL STATES.

From Rome we learn that Francis II. and his Queen have dismissed their suite and are making preparations to depart for Bavaria. General Bosco is about to proceed to Spain. Meanwhile, placards bearing the words, "Long live Victor Emmanuel," have again been posted up, and a fresh demonstration by the students of the University has taken place.

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION IN THE FRENCH SENATE.

The discussion on the project of the Address commenced on Thursday week in the Senate. The Marquis de la Rochejacquelein, Marquis Gabriac, and Count Heckeren spoke in favour of the temporal power of the Pope, and with bitterness against France, England, and Sardinia. The Senate received with marked applause any expressions of opinion which condemned the Emperor for uniting the policy of France with that of Great Britain, whether in Italy or China.

Senator Pietri, formerly Prefect of Police, and late Imperial Commissioner in Italy, in his speech, said, "The temporal power of the Pope is lost. We must confine ourselves to the preservation of his spiritual power. We must consider the attitude of the reaction, which has again raised its head, and must determine our line of conduct. Italy has an army of 300,000 men, which she will place on our side in the conflict with which we are threatened." Prince Napoleon, in his speech, said, "I am astonished at the violence of the discussion. I leave to liberal opinion in Europe, to the patriotism of the Italians, to the 200,000 soldiers who, with the Emperor at their head, made the campaign of Italy, the task of replying to the insults which you have listened to. The empire represents modern society, its progressive tendencies, and the liberal principles of 1789. The peoples are not mistaken if they rely upon Napoleon III., who will not fail in his mission." The Prince then recalled the words of the Emperor respecting Gaeta, and said, "Count Heckeren has confounded the words 'pity' and 'sympathy,' the latter being only felt by the Emperor for the glorious cause of Italy and for the allies who have shed their blood at our sides at Magenta and Solferino." The Prince defended the English alliance against the Marquis de la Rochejacquelein, and said, "That alliance is not with some particular Ministers, but with the great and liberal English people. It is an alliance with which we can defend the great principles of liberty and progress." The Prince justified the policy of Piedmont in Italy, and maintained that the unity of Italy was favourable to France, of whom, he said, she was the natural ally. He uttered some sympathetic words respecting Venice, but said he should deplore any untimely attack. He foresaw that Italy united would soon demand Rome as her capital, and continued, "The difficulty is to ensure the independence of the Pope, who cannot become subject to another Sovereign; but, by securing to the Pope the right side of the city of Rome, with a Papal garrison and a Papal budget, guaranteed by the Powers, his independence would be ensured." The Prince was essentially opposed to the union of the temporal and spiritual powers, which would be a subjection of the conscience.

Cardinal Mathieu replied to the speech of Prince Napoleon, and defended the temporal power of the Pope.

M. Billault (Minister without portfolio) stated that the Emperor's Government did not pledge itself to all the views expressed by Prince Napoleon. He declared that at present it was impossible to say what the ulterior conduct of the Government would be regarding a question which every moment might change; but that the Emperor would do everything in his power to reconcile and defend the interests which now confront each other—those of Italian liberty and the independence of the Pope. The Minister in the course of his speech very significantly observed that their forefathers, although sincere Catholics, never sacrificed the cause of the State to that of the temporal power of the Papacy. When asked the distinct question whether the French troops would leave Rome, M. Billault declined to reply, but added that no one had a right to suspect the loyalty and devotion of the Government to the Holy Father.

Tuesday's sitting of the French Senate was marked by a display on the part of Senator Boissy. This enlightened senator expressed his regret that in the draft of the Address no mention was made of the French Navy, which, he affirmed, would render such signal service in a war with England—an event which he (Boissy) declared that he desired to see. This remark was received with expressions of dissatisfaction, whereupon Boissy proceeded to vindicate his declaration by maintaining that the benefit of the English alliance had been exaggerated, and that the majority of Frenchmen were of his opinion.

Cardinal Donnet asked whether the Government would accept as an amendment to one portion of the Address, words distinctly declaring that the sword of France would continue to protect the independence of the Pope and the maintenance of his temporal power? M. Baroche, on behalf of the Government, declined to accept such an amendment. The general discussion of the Address, as a whole, closed here, and the Senate began to discuss it paragraph by paragraph.

On Wednesday an amendment in favour of the temporal power of the Pope was rejected by 79 votes against 61.

On the paragraph relating to Syria being read, M. Billault stated that negotiations on the question of the prolongation of the occupation having commenced, it was impossible to enter into any explanations. The Conference would shortly reassemble, and there was reason to hope that the mission of pacification would be continued by France.

DISTURBANCES AT WARSAW.

A POLITICAL demonstration has been made at Warsaw, which has been attended with bloodshed. During the whole winter the capital has been much agitated; but no serious display of feeling took place till the 25th of last month, the anniversary of the battle of Grochow. Those who have read the history of the last Polish rebellion will remember that among those fierce conflicts in which the natural military genius of the Poles enabled them to hold their ground against Russian numbers and discipline the battle of Grochow stands pre-eminent. It was fought under the walls of Warsaw, and for the possession of that city. The Russians were commanded by Diebitsch, fresh from the glories of the Turkish war. He had a large and fully-equipped army, and fought with desperation to drive the Poles from the field. Yet it was a drawn battle, and both sides have ever since claimed the victory. Having resolved on a demonstration in memory of this conflict, the popular leaders at Warsaw at first intended to hold a funeral service on the field; but as the Russians were about to do the same, this project was abandoned, and the people were called by handbills, and even by posted placards, to take part in a torchlight procession.

The cortege, formed of immense numbers, was headed by a man bearing the Polish flag—a white eagle on a red ground. He was followed by a body of young men, chiefly students of the Academy of Medicine, of the School of Agriculture, of the Academy of Fine Arts, and of the Institution of Nobility, as well as of young men of the industrial classes, most of them carrying small flags of the Polish colours, red and white, and torches. The procession traversed the dense and crowded market-place, singing a hymn, and when the people beheld the white eagle an immense and terrible shout of enthusiasm arose, which seemed never to end.

It was the intention of the cortege to pass through the Rue St. Jean, in front of the Royal Palace, to reach the Cracow faubourg—the finest and most animated part of the city—and thence before the Government Palace, where the Agricultural Society was actually holding a sitting; in fact, nearly all the nobility of the country is actually here to attend the meetings of the Agricultural Society, which, though only two years in existence, already numbers 4600 members.

As the procession approached the Place St. Jean a squadron of mounted gendarmes suddenly made their appearance, and commenced making use of their sabres. A great tumult ensued; those of the procession who were attacked defended themselves for some time with their flagstaffs and torches. But in about one hour afterwards the whole of the old market-place was clear, the whole garrison was under arms and occupied all the public squares and principal streets, which, however, remained crowded by men during the night.

The above account does not speak of any killed, but another account says—

As soon as the multitude beheld the national flag with the white eagle more than 30,000 men, women, and children knelt and raised a hymn, many of them shedding tears. They were charged by the cavalry, eight men were killed, and others wounded. Various arrests have taken place, and loaded cannon are drawn up in front of the Palace.

The funeral of those who were killed took place on Saturday, and, as might naturally be expected, gave rise to a great popular manifestation.

A letter from Warsaw says:—

It is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the imposing spectacle offered by this ceremony. The country as well as the city took part in it. There must have been 150,000 persons present. Order was kept simply by the students and citizens; no other agent of police, policeman, or soldier was visible during the day. General Pautucci, on horseback, was the only person in uniform. All the schools (boys as well as girls), the Congregations with flags (at least 200 in number), more than 10,000 workmen, accompanied by the whole city, followed in close ranks. The Bishop and the clergy of every confession marched in front of the coffins, which were all alike—of black wood, with silver nails. Weatens and branches of olive were on the coffins. After the coffin came the Rabbi and Jewish clergy. With a sentiment of toleration and fraternity, the commissaries of the ceremony had invited the Rabbi to walk by the side of the Bishop, but he declined, as, according to the Jewish faith, he cannot walk before a coffin. Order was not disturbed for a single instant, and continues to prevail in the city.

Since then we learn the citizens of Warsaw have drawn up an address to the Emperor, declaring that the recent demonstration sprang from the deepest and most unanimous sense of the unsatisfied wants of the country and the result of many years of suffering. The address emphatically announces that in the soul of every citizen there lives an unquenchable sentiment of nationality, and appeals to the Emperor's love of justice for the re-establishment of the Constitution of Poland, suspended since 1831. The Polish officials are said to have resigned their places in a body.

The following notice was issued by Prince Gortschakoff at Warsaw on the 28th ult.:

The summons which the authorities addressed to the gatherings in the streets to disperse were not regarded, and in the course of yesterday a company of infantry who were assailed with stones on the faubourg of Cracow fired at the crowd. I have ordered a strict inquiry to be made in order to discover the authors of this deplorable conflict. I will tolerate no act of violence, let it come from what side it may. In general peaceable citizens ought to avoid large assemblies, as favouring the instigations of dangerous men, and ought to disperse on the first invitation of the executive authorities, in order that unhappy events may be prevented.

Inhabitants of the city of Warsaw! Do not be misled by the perfidious arts of the enemies of order, who conspire to disturb the public tranquillity. Listen to the voice of the one whose loyalty you have been able to appreciate during the thirty years he has spent in your midst.

The Governor of the Kingdom,
Aide-de-Camp General Prince GORTSCHAKOFF.

The Prince has given tranquillising assurances to a deputation from an agricultural association. He has also appointed a delegation of twenty-four citizens of Warsaw, eight of whom are alternately to sit at the Townhall for the purpose of arranging measures for the maintenance of public order. This appointment has produced a satisfactory impression.

The garrison of Warsaw is being nightly increased by other troops.

The Chief of the Police, M. Trepow, having been wounded, has been replaced by Colonel Denoncal.

A Committee of Public Safety, composed of citizens, has been formed, and has issued a proclamation requesting the maintenance of order.

A VERDICT OF "FELO DE SE."—An inquest was held by Mr. Payne, on Monday afternoon, in Bishopgate, to inquire into the death of T. Richardson, a private in the Royal Fusiliers. It appeared that deceased had been absent on leave from his regiment, but, having allowed the time to elapse when he ought to have returned, he resolved to destroy himself. On Friday morning, on the water entering a room in a coffee-house where Richardson and his sister, a married woman, had temporarily been staying, the man was found lying dead, and the woman suffering from the effects of poison, which had been taken by mutual agreement. In addition to the dose of opium and prussic acid, which in her case had failed of its fatal effect, the woman had inflicted several wounds on her body with a knife. A verdict of "Felo de se" was returned, and the coroner made out a warrant for internment, as usual in such cases—between the hours of nine and twelve at night. The female remains in charge of the police.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.—His Grace the Duke of Sutherland died on Thursday week, at Trentham, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He had been ill for some time previously, but it was not at first supposed that his illness was so serious in its nature. George Granville Sutherland-Leslie, second Duke of Sutherland, Marquis of Stafford, Earl Gower, Viscount Trentham, and Baron Gower; also Earl of Sutherland and Baron Strathnaver, both in the peerage of Scotland, was born in 1786, and was consequently in his seventy-fifth year. In 1823 he married Lady Harriet, third daughter of the sixth Earl of Carlisle, by whom he had issue four daughters and four sons. The deceased Peer was a Knight of the Garter, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, and High Steward of Stafford. The late Duke was a Liberal in politics, and took great interest in scientific pursuits. He was also a warm patron of art and literature.

MUTINY AND MURDER.—A coroner's inquest on the body of the Captain of the American ship General Parkhill, who was murdered off Point Lyras on Monday week, has been held at Liverpool. It appears that a dispute of a paltry nature arose between the Captain and some of his crew, which led to a mutiny, and in the fighting that ensued the Captain was stabbed to the heart, and the mate also was dangerously wounded. Four of the crew were committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE RUSSIAN SERFS.

A TELEGRAM from St. Petersburg a few days since brings the intelligence that the Governor-General of that city had announced that no Government measure concerning the emancipation of the peasants would be published on the 2nd of March.

A letter from St. Petersburg, dated Feb. 25, says:—

The Council of the Empire held its last sitting to-day on the question of the emancipation of the serfs. The Emperor spoke at considerable length. Other speeches were made, among others a remarkable one by Prince Paul Gagarine. A decision was adopted by a considerable majority, to the following intent:—

"Personal liberty is accorded to the serf; all relations between proprietors and peasants cease at once. The latter are to receive as their own property the house they live in and the kitchen-garden (*potager*) belonging to it. As regards the allotment (*nadel*) of the labour-land the Council of the Empire has accepted the fixation of one-fourth of the allotment first fixed by the committee on the report according to the different districts, or from one to two *disiatines* per head."

A little explanation is necessary. The committee on the report had proposed to allow to the peasants a certain quantity of labour-land amounting, according to the districts, to from three to eight *disiatines*, at a fixed price determined by the commission on the project. The committee admitted in principle that the peasants that were to be liberated and endowed are all cultivators; but, in reality, the number of cultivators is far from forming the totality of actual serfs. A great number of them are occupied in different trades, and it would be hard upon them to compel them to purchase a considerable quantity of labour-land belonging to the landed proprietor. It is, moreover, very difficult to ascertain at once the exact number of cultivators in Russia, the greatest portion of the landed property being administered by means of the *Obrok*—that is to say, a fixed tax paid by the peasants. It is only when the system of the *Corvée* (*barshchina*) prevails that the peasant is compelled to be cultivator, because he is obliged himself to cultivate the land of his proprietor. How the labour of the Russian peasant will henceforth be divided has still to be seen, but it would be very useless, even dangerous in a point of view of the expansion of the productive resources of Russia, to settle everything beforehand. These are about the reasons which actuated the Council to decide that the allotment at a fixed price shall only extend to one quarter of the obligatory purchase-land determined by the committee in the report, and that, if the peasants are desirous of cultivating larger tracts of land on their own account they must come to a private agreement on the subject with the former proprietors.

Thus has been resolved, if not in a perfect manner—and there is nothing perfect in this world—at least in a possible and practicable manner, the great question of emancipation, which has for years held the whole country in suspense. The modifications made in the original project are of a nature to conciliate the susceptibilities as well as the interest of the two classes concerned, which it was most important to separate without making them adversaries.

The Imperial manifesto is already in the printer's hands, and some 100,000 copies will be issued throughout the different printing offices, under the especial superintendence of the Minister of Justice. The proclamation of the emancipation will, however, not be made on the 2nd of March as announced.

THE NEW AUSTRIAN CONSTITUTION.

We have received from Vienna the collection of diplomas, patents, and statutes which compose the new Austrian Constitution, hitherto very inadequately described in telegraphic reports. These documents fill 150 pages of the official record; but all that is necessary to a judgment of the general character of the scheme may be stated briefly.

The Constitution is one for the whole Monarchy, and no nationality is exempted. Thus it is not true that Hungary is to retain her ancient Constitution. She is to send members to a general Diet, and the taxes and levies of that country are to be voted at Vienna, or wherever else the Central Assembly meets, and not at Presburg or Pesth. In an Imperial diploma, which, like the instruments accompanying it, bears date Feb. 26, the Emperor, after reciting the general provisions of the diploma of Oct. 20, 1860, proceeds to define the forms in which the liberties there promised are to be realised.

The enlarged Imperial Council, or Reichsrath, is abolished to make way for a "Council of the Empire," which will be a Diet or Parliament, meeting in two Houses, a House of Lords and a House of Deputies.

The House of Lords will be composed of Princes of the blood, sitting by right of birth; the heads of those great, noble, and territorial families, to whom the Emperor may give an hereditary title to a seat; the Archbishops and Bishops having princely rank; and, lastly, men distinguished in the Church and State or in science and art whom the Emperor may nominate as members for life.

The House of Deputies will be composed of persons elected to seats by the Diets of their respective countries. Their number is assigned in the following proportions:—

To the Kingdom of Hungary, 85; to the Kingdom of Bohemia, 51; to the Kingdom of Lombardy and Venice, 20; to Dalmatia, 5; to Croatia and Slavonia, 9; to Galicia and Lodomeria, with the Duchies of Auschwitz and Zator and the Grand Duchy of Cracow, 38; the Archduchy of Lower Austria, 18; the Archduchy of Upper Austria, 10; the Duchy of Salzburg, 3; the Duchy of Styria, 13; the Duchy of Carinthia, 5; the Duchy of Carniola, 6; the Bukovina, 5; the Grand Principality of Transylvania, 26; the Margravate of Moravia, 22; the Duchy of Upper and Lower Silesia, 6; the Princely County of Tyrol and Vorarlberg, 12; the Margravate of Istria, including the city and territory of Trieste, 6.

A Diet can only elect members to the lower House of the Council of the Empire from its own body. An extraordinary provision occurs in the regulations for these elections. "In the case of a Diet refusing to send representatives to the Chamber of Deputies, the Emperor will have the right to cause the elections to be made by the towns, corporations, and districts of that particular country in a direct manner." There can be no mistake about the contingency thus provided against. The Austrian Government knows that no Hungarian Diet will send deputies to another deliberative body.

The Council of the Empire is to meet once a year, and is to have a right to discuss all that relates to the rights, duties, and interests which are common to the whole empire. Certain exceptions of subjects are made in favour of the Hungarian Diet, whose deputies in turn will retire from the Council whenever topics of the same kind are discussed by the representatives of the other countries of the empire. Members are elected once a year. The sittings are public; high officers of state have the right to attend and demand to be heard, but not to vote unless they are also members of the Chamber.

A Council of State is established, but does not appear to be an essential part of the new organism, being rather of the nature of a Privy Council.

In the Imperial diploma the re-establishment of the Constitutions of Hungary, Croatia, Slavonia, and Transylvania is said to take place only "in harmony with the diploma of October 20, and within the limits there drawn."

As is well known, the Hungarians, taking their stand upon the Pragmatic Sanction, have hitherto refused to surrender their old Constitution in exchange for this new diploma. The Vienna *Wanderer* publishes a telegram from Pesth, stating that the publication of the documents we have summarised has caused an immense sensation, and that the Hungarian Diet, if it ever meets, will protest unanimously against the new Constitution. "All parties," it says, "are in agreement, and will maintain a passive attitude."

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.—The Rev. Dr. Temple having asked the Bishop of Exeter, in reference to a recent address, to see kind enough to inform him with what fundamental doctrines of the Church a certain extract from the essay on "The Education of the World" is at variance, the Bishop replies in a lengthy epistle, the purport of which is, that though he does not regard Dr. Temple's essay with the same feeling of aversion as he feels for other portions of the book, he yet deems it open to "very grave remarks." His Grace thinks the joint letter of the Bishops much too feeble in terms, and has himself sketched a formula in which a stronger opinion was expressed. His Grace furthermore holds every one of the seven persons acting together in the book to be "at least responsible for the several acts of every individual among them in executing their avowed common purpose."

THE PROVINCES.

SCAMPING THE FORTIFICATIONS.—A discovery of considerable importance has been made in connexion with the construction of the new lines of defence for Portsmouth harbour, which works are being carried out by contractors. A large number of piles have to be driven at different parts of the works, particularly at Alver Bank, where the main entrance to the works from the outer side will be formed, with culvert, &c., for supplying the moats with water at tide time. The authorities drew some of these piles at one portion of the works, and each pile was found to be not only without its iron "shoe," but also four feet short of its stipulated length. This led to further examination, and in some work being carried out by another contractor upwards of 100 piles which were drawn out were found to be all without their iron "shoes."

DARING ROBBERY.—At Lady Olway's residence at Brighton a daring robbery has been perpetrated. The thieves not only removed all the valuables which came within their reach in the different rooms, but took a costly gold watch and appendages from the pocket at the bed's head, and a diamond ring from off her Ladyship's finger whilst she lay asleep. With the key attached to the watch they opened a desk in the drawing-room, and took out a large sum in cash and banknotes. The property carried off is valued at £1700. A reward of £150 is offered for the discovery of the thieves.

BRUTAL MURDER.—A brutal murder is reported from Hull. A fishing-smack and a flyboat having fouled, a fisherman named Sayers jumped on board the flyboat to push the smack away. Two men in the flyboat came up and kicked the poor fellow overboard, and then kicked him on the head until he sunk in the water. The case is adjourned for further examination.

EXTRAORDINARY BURGLARY.—An extraordinary burglary was committed in the bullion-office of Mr. Barnett, at Liverpool. Mr. Barnett's servant girl, on going into the kitchen on Sunday morning, found a man there. He advanced to her and said, "She must not be afraid; if she did what he desired her to do she would have nothing to fear, but if she did not he would take her life." He then said, "It's money I want, and money I'll have. Go up to your master, and tell him to come down immediately, but if you give any other alarm I will take your life." This he said, presenting a loaded pistol at her head and accompanying her upstairs as far as the parlour. The girl in an agony of terror went upstairs and summoned her master. On Mr. Barnett coming down, however, the burglar concealed himself, though, the police being summoned, he was speedily arrested and conveyed to Bridewell. He has been committed for trial.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION AT WORSLEY.—A colliery explosion at Worsley, near Manchester, has proved fatal to eight colliers. The pit in which the accident happened is called the Berry Field Pit. There are two shafts—the downcast and upcast, about thirty yards apart—by which the workings are entered. The downcast shaft leads to the deeper working, and it was in the "runs" from this shaft that the explosion took place. The first intimation of the accident was given by a booming sound, and at the same time a column of smoke rose from the mouth of each shaft. The relatives of the miners flocked to the spot, and attempts were made to wind up the cage, which happened to be, at the time of the explosion, at the bottom of the shaft; but the ropes were blown out of gear, and considerable delay was experienced. When the tackle was arranged the cage was found to be immovable. The signalling-wire was also broken. Fears were entertained that all the miners were lost, and women and children began to cry aloud. Presently the sound of knocking was distinctly heard, the cage was found to have become free, and was drawn up. There were five miners in it, all of them suffering from the effects of sulphur. The poor men soon revived in the fresh air, and the fears of those whose relatives had not been brought up were confirmed by the survivors asserting that they alone had escaped alive. The miners in the higher working, which had been affected slightly by the explosion, alarmed at the rush of air, had signalled to the top of the upcast shaft, and were all brought up alive, but suffering, like the others, from the effects of the noxious atmosphere. It was some time before a search could be made for the bodies; but before midnight they had all been recovered.

HORRIBLE CRUELTY TO A GIRL.—At the Dudley Board of Guardians' meeting yesterday week Mr. Barrs, a county magistrate and chairman of the board, stated that on the previous day a girl, aged between twelve and thirteen years, named Sarah Neale, had been brought to his residence in a terrible condition. Her bones were protruding through her skin, and she was a mass of bruises from head to foot. Upon being questioned, she stated that her father, who had married a second wife, was in the habit of beating her in the most inhuman manner without any provocation; he also refused to give her food sufficient for sustenance. She was conveyed to the union workhouse, and afterwards brought before the board. The medical officer of the union, who had examined the girl, gave it as his opinion that the treatment she had received would terminate in a decline. He believed the system to be too much shattered to give any hopes of her ultimate recovery. The board ordered a warrant to be issued for the apprehension of the father.

REFORM MEETING AT LEEDS.—A reform meeting was held at Leeds on Friday week. Leading members of both the middle and the working classes took a prominent part in the proceedings. A petition in favour of the bill which has been brought into Parliament by Mr. Baines, and the second reading of which is appointed to take place on the 10th of April, was unanimously adopted. So also was a resolution which appealed to the electors and non-electors of Yorkshire and the adjacent county of Lancashire, to organise a vigorous movement in support of the bill.

SHOCKING MURDER NEAR WISBEACH.—A Mr. Hilton, occupying a small farm at Parsloviere, near Wisbeach, drove his wife on Saturday to Wisbeach Mart. There they dined, the husband returning home rather intoxicated. At home they quarrelled, not an unusual custom with them. The wife said she would leave him (having done so once before) and go to his father's. She then left the table and went upstairs. Her husband followed her and cut her throat, causing instant death. He then drove to his father's, a farmer at Gedney Hill, about three miles distant, and told them that he had had as good a wife as ever walked, but he had cut her throat. He was at once arrested, and conveyed to Wisbeach Gaol.

NEW TEST FOR ARTILLERY.—On the 20th ult., a twelve-pounder Armstrong gun was placed in position, on its carriage, opposite the proof-but at Woolwich, and a nine-pounder brass gun told off for the purpose of firing at it. The first shot fired at the Armstrong gun was so arranged that the gun fired at should occupy a position of 15 deg. from the axial line of the nine-pounder service-gun employed against it. The distance selected was 100 yards. The first shot struck the Armstrong gun immediately in front of the trunnions; the effect was to completely destroy the gun, breaking through both coils, and causing the muzzle to droop 12 deg. The second shot struck it behind the trunnions; the effect of this shot was to cause the whole of the gun in front of the trunnions to fall on the ground, and to completely break up the gun behind the trunnions. The third shot struck the gun in the thickest part, breaking the breech-screw, and proving beyond all doubt that either of the three shots was fatal to the gun. Objection was taken that, under the same condition, the service 9-pounder gun would likewise be destroyed; therefore the committee determined to put the matter to a test. A service 9-pounder was placed in position in front of the proof-but, and was fired at by another 9-pounder gun at the distance of fifty yards. Three shots were fired under precisely the same conditions, striking the gun fairly—one on the chase and two behind the trunnions. As this trial did not destroy or materially injure the gun for service purposes, it was turned round, and three more shots were fired, striking it in the same position on the other side of the gun. After this severe test the gun remained intact, the only perceptible injury being a slight indentation of the bore on one side in the chase or forepart of the gun.

CONCLUSION OF THE INQUEST ON DR. BAILY.—This tedious inquest has at last come to an end. The jury found a verdict of "Accidental death," and they say "This investigation has shown that one of the wheels of the tender was in a very dangerous state from the improper way in which the studs were inserted, although the evidence disproves this to have been the cause of the accident. We, the jury, strongly recommend to the consideration of the directors that additional break-power should be applied to all passenger-trains. We also cannot dispense without expressing our approval of the conduct of the guard, engine-driver, and pointman, for the promptitude and presence of mind displayed on this occasion."

FRANCIS II. LEAVING CAETA.

THE farewell of Francis II. gives us the last scene in which the Bourbon Ruler has had to enact a part in the great Italian drama. He had attempted to sustain a bad and rotten cause too long, and the consummation of his role was the leaving the last corner in which he had endeavoured to shelter himself from the justice of an indignant people. Happily for him he had to do with a foe who honourably adhered to the propositions held out to the besieged garrison, and, although any acceptance of the offered terms was deferred until the explosion of the powder-magazines made it almost impossible longer to hold the fortress, the Sardinian General made no alteration in the terms he had proposed, and remained satisfied that the place should be given up to him, and with the departure of the King.

The place, indeed, was utterly shattered, for, besides the explosion of the magazines, the Neapolitan artillery was dismounted, and could

scarcely reply, while wide and complete breaches were made in the defences. It was calculated that during the tremendous fire of the Piedmontese batteries no fewer than 50,000 shells were thrown into the city.

When we remember how variously men are constituted, and again how naturally conservative is the whole human family, it will not be wondered at that even Francis II. had to take a sad leave of a portion of his troops before he left the city, which he was allowed to do with military honours. Before quitting the place which he had so vainly endeavoured to hold he passed before the men, who presented arms, amidst general emotion, which was evidently shared by Francis himself. The population of Gaeta followed the ex-Royal family to the quay, where they were received with all due respect on board *La Mouette*. When the King and Queen, with the Prince and the Royal household, had arrived on the deck, a salute of twenty-one pieces of ordnance was fired, and the steamer proceeded on her way to Terracina, whence the Royal party proceeded to Rome, to occupy the Palace of the Quirinal, which the hospitality of the Pope had prepared for them.

A VISIT TO GAETA.

The harbour of Gaeta opens a scene of desolation and ruin. The batteries which protect it are made of the soft tuffa, or the volcanic formation, which would not bear eight hours' breaching before it crumbled to dust, while it presents sufficient resistance to prevent the shot being imbedded in it, as is the case in earthworks. 'Twas not the ruins of these fortifications, however, which most struck the visitors who landed at Gaeta immediately after the capitulation. One of these, a Staff-Sergeant in Colonel Dowling's Artillery Corps, says:—

"The first thing I witnessed—and I was horrified at the sight—was a heap of ten dead bodies. An old woman was in the act of trying to cut off the fingers of one of them in order to become possessed of the two or three rings which were on it, but which, from the swollen and decomposed state of the hand, she could not draw off. I soon hunted off this old crone." Another visitor says:—"Passing into the town of Gaeta, which is at the base of the promontory on which the citadel has been built, your olfactory organ at once makes you feel the necessity of carefully picking your way. No language can describe the filth of the place or the effluvia. With handkerchief to my nose I cast my eyes around. There is not a house which has not been pierced with shot and shell, and they would have been soon in a blaze were it not that little or no timber is used for building in Italy, the houses being entirely built on arches. Passing along the street you come to the King's Palace. The palace stands nearly behind the San Antonio Battery, which had been blown into the sea by the explosion of the powder-magazine on the 5th ult. This explosion must have been fearful in its effects; and if the King was then a resident in the Palace, which I doubt, he could not have but imagined that it was about to fall about his ears; it must have been shaken to its foundation. The side of the street nearest to the battery was on this occasion blown down."

"To arrive at the palace you have to pass a bridge; this bridge has been pierced with shot and shell, so much so as to render it a matter of danger to pass it. The palace I found denuded of all furniture. The battery of San Antonio is a perfect heap of ruins. The horrid smell of putrifying bodies assails you, and a foot projecting from the ground presents a horrible spectacle. You hasten to quit such a scene, but it is desirable before doing so to see the condition of the curtain. This is breached, but it could not have been made available to storm the place. The next battery is the 'Adolaterata.' Here you witness the defect in the fortifications. To avoid the effects of being completely enfiladed sandbags, casks of sand, every means the place could afford, have been made available to afford protection to the men working the guns. Overthrown guns, &c., attest the precision of the Piedmontese fire. Here, as is the case in all the batteries, you witness how every means has been used to keep up the flagging courage of the soldiers. Superstition has not been forgotten. The worst imaginable daubs representing the Crucifixion, the Virgin Mary, in the various forms of the Madonna, and some doubtful saint, are placed in little niches; before them burns a miserable oil lamp, and around them are hung bits of shells, which I presume have burst in the vicinity without occasioning damage, attributable to the presence of these wretched representations."

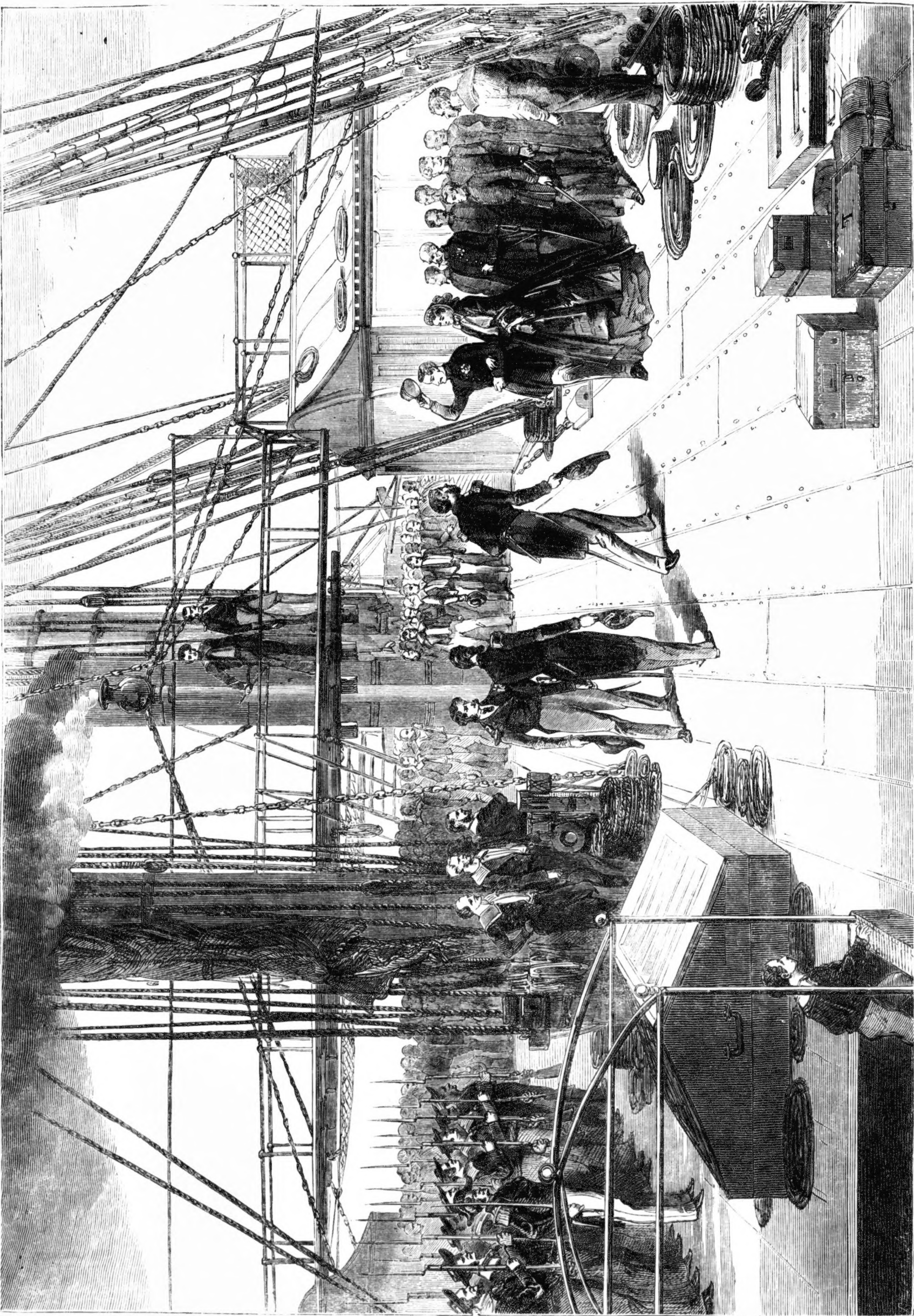
"Our next consideration is the position of the powder-magazines. I cannot conceive any engineer placing them in such sites as they occupied, so close to the batteries. Within a very few yards the most perfect magazines possible might have been made in the tuffa rock; it is impervious to wet, and could not have been penetrated by any shell; while the distance would have been nothing for the conveyance of the powder. In truth, the vaunted strength of these famed fortifications, from which the prying eyes of strangers have been so carefully excluded, now that we visit them turns out to be a myth. As they are constructed they could not have maintained, as it has now been proved, any lengthened siege. We now turn our eyes up the hill. The batteries on it overlook the entrance into the fortifications from Borgo and the adjoining country. They are connected with zigzags and covered ways. There is nothing in their position which deserves particular notice. There are no batteries on the side of the hill fronting the town. We now arrive at the Transilvania Battery, where the last explosion took place. Although it has been completely destroyed there is no breach in the wall; therefore, for all practical purposes, no great damage was done."

"Before leaving the place I remarked that, generally speaking, very little damage has been done to the fortifications. About thirty guns have been dismounted. The chief aim of the assailants seems to have been to destroy the town, and with it the shelter afforded to the garrison, but they found most effectual protection in the casemates. The cathedral, notwithstanding its reputed sanctity, has been no exception to the general destruction; it has received more than its share of hard knocks. There is the greatest scarcity of water. For this necessary commodity there does not appear to have been a sufficient number of cisterns. The garrison must, from the position of the place, be at all times dependent for its supply upon rain water. They are now nearly empty, and the water which does remain is in such a state of putridity as not to be drinkable."

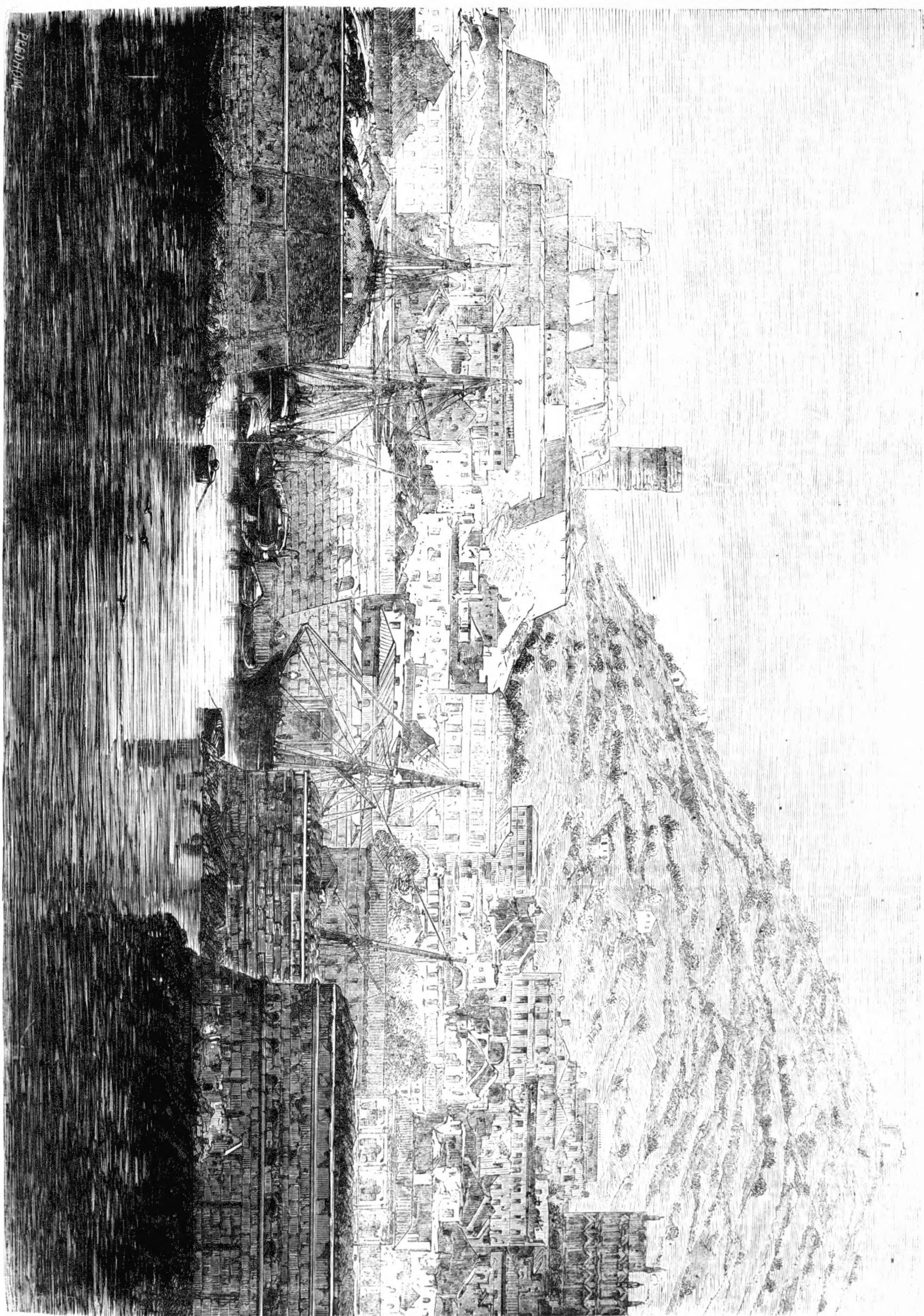
"The number of artillery mounted on the different batteries is said to exceed 500 pieces. The number of troops of all arms who marched out of the place was 11,000. They presented the most wretched appearance. Dirt, starvation, and consequent emaciation, with the not-to-be-mistaken seeds of sickness stamped upon their faces, gives the certainty of the deprivations they must have been subjected to."

"The provisions were not only bad, but scarce to a degree. I abstracted from a knapsack a piece of biscuit; it was mouldy, worm-eaten, and disgusting. As for the cattle which remained, they might afford a study for those who are curious in the anatomy of horned animals. To tell the truth, in spite of all the stories so industriously promulgated, the fortress was not properly provisioned. The place could not have held out a week longer."

"Leaving the place by the Borgo Gate, you enter upon the spit which joins the promontory to the main land—this is commanded by a redoubt. The nearest Piedmontese battery is fully 1000 yards from the walls. Passing through Borgo and the camp, you are struck by the well-fed, comfortable appearance of the Piedmontese soldiers. Proceeding along the shore, you arrive at the Cavalli gun-battery. These guns have all burst, not at the muzzle, but at the breech. They are loaded at the breech, not as our Armstrong gun is, but at the extreme end of it. It presents the appearance of what is commonly known as a Dutch bottle. It has two grooves—the shot is a conical shell, and the two guns which remain are a twenty and a sixty pounder. The opinion of artillery officers is, that from their formation they must have burst."



ARRIVAL OF FRANCIS II AND THE QUEEN OF NAPLES ON BOARD THE FRENCH STEAMER "LA MOUETTE."



PEACHAM

THE PORT OF GAFETA

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 150.

CHURCH-RATE FIGHT.

If the lobby be filled with strangers you may be sure that the House will be filled by members. If there is agitation outside the House it is a certain sign that there is excitement within; and an experienced eye can tell at a glance from the appearance of the strangers what is the complexion of the business that calls the crowd together. If tight-fitting trousers, blue bird's-eye neckties, and broad-tailed coats with flapped pockets prevail, there is, we may be certain, some measure affecting omnibuses or cab proprietors on the carpet—Train's Street Railway Bill, it may be. If there are men standing about with law papers under their arms, or blue or red bags in their hands, the Attorney-General has a law reform to expound; and if white neckcloths, archidiaconal hats, and straight coats are in the ascendant, it is some ecclesiastical business—a Sunday question or a church-rate bill—that is the attraction. On Wednesday last week the crowd was great, and all the signs pointed to the fact that Sir John Trelawny's Church-rate Bill was to be the order of the day. Every fourth man had a clerical look, all the well known Church and Dissenting agents were present; and such was the general appearance, not to say odour, of the crowd, that if any one had struck up a doxology to the Old Hundred tune you would hardly have been surprised. And see what a stream of members is pouring into the House, and what heaps of petitions they are carrying with them. The old man with the bald head and spectacles on his nose, who is stopping and questioning every fourth or fifth man, seems to be in high glee; and no wonder, for he is the Church agitator, and much of this excitement is his handiwork. Ever since last Session he has been sowing the seed, and this is his harvest. For months he has been blowing the bellows, and this fire of excitement is the result. The Dissenting party sent no petitions. This was their policy. They had so often petitioned, and in every case had outnumbered their opponents both in petitions and signatures, that they determined to send no more. But the Dissenting agitators have not been asleep. If they have not been urging the people to sign, they have been urging the members to come, and, it is clear from the unusual gathering of Liberal members, not without effect.

AGITATION STOKERS.

There may be some people so simple and ignorant of the ways of the political and religious world as to suppose that all this agitation is spontaneous. Let us, then, undeceive them. Spontaneous agitation, like spontaneous combustion, is possible, it may be, but exceedingly rare; indeed, agitation is now reduced to a science. Nor is it true that the agitators are not paid for their work. For a long time we had a notion that in all these religious cases the agents worked on amore, without fee or reward; but we were mistaken. They believe devoutly that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," and they take it. In secular matters the professional agitator cares no more about the matter in hand than a barrister cares about the cause which he has to plead. He is open for employment on any side, and will plead, and argue, and struggle, and canvass with as much earnestness this year for one side as he did last year for the opposite. In short, like a barrister, he thinks of nothing but his client. But generally, in religious matters, it has not quite come to this. The men employed are mostly, if not always, zealots for the cause which they promote; indeed, they are selected for their zeal. Still, they do not work for nothing; nor is it reasonable, perhaps, to expect that they should do so; for arduous is the task which they undertake—these "stokers of agitation," if we think of it. Without fuel the fire would go out; and they must be, therefore, constantly heaping on fuel to the fire. Where there is no spark they must kindle one; where there is a spark they must, by expeditious blowing, rouse it into a flame. Perhaps the worst part of the duty of our agitators is the whipping up of the members, especially on this church-rate matter; for it must be remembered that very few of the Liberals are Dissenters; and, what with their natural latent attachment to the Church, and a general *vis inertiae*, it is often hard work to get them to move, and in that case there is no other course but to smoke them out of their holes by getting up a local agitation amongst their constituents, and this method generally succeeds. The recalcitrant or cold-hearted member comes, unwillingly, it may be, but, having the fear of a general election before his eyes, he does come at last. This smoking out is a modern invention, but it is now largely practised, and with great success.

PETITIONING.

Petitioning Parliament was once a living reality and valuable privilege; indeed, in early times, before our courts of law and equity had settled down into their present form, petitioning Parliament was the only mode in which the people could get a large class of their grievances redressed; but now, as we know, all this is changed. If a private subject is wronged by a fellow-subject or by the Crown his remedy must be sought in Westminster Hall, and not at St. Stephen's. Petitions now are for the most part mere expressions of opinion for or against a measure before the House; but even as such they have a certain value at one time—that is to say, when they were spontaneous and not got up by machinery. Now, however, they have little value; for they are not the measure of the strength of the party petitioning, but simply of the activity of those who work the machine to get them up. The Anti-church-rate party seem to have come to this conclusion, for this year it sent no petitions, and, we understand, means to send no more. Some few years back any member presenting a petition could make a speech and set up a debate thereon, and there are instances on record of debates upon petitions running over several days; but at last the hindrance to business caused by this practice became intolerable, and it was by standing order peremptorily put a stop to. The course of petitions now is this:—The member having to introduce a petition simply rises and announces it as a petition from so-and-so. He may, if he likes, read it; or he may just say what is its prayer, and how many signatures are attached; but further he must not go. If he proceeds to comment he is stopped at once by the Speaker. The member then is ordered to bring his petition up, and Mr. Speaker directs that it "do lie on the table," which means that it be shoved into a bag and speedily carted away to the Journal Office. And here we may say that not a few of the petitions are not presented at all, but are thrust into the bag at once—and why not? Surely this is an improvement which might be generally adopted. At the Journal Office the petitions are examined to see whether they are regular, and are duly sorted and arranged; and at the beginning of the following Session a printed report is laid upon the table. Where all these documents ultimately go we know not, but probably to the papermaker's, to be again reduced to pulp, or to the tailors' shops to be turned into measures. Presenting petitions takes up a good deal of time, and we should strongly recommend that it be put an end to. Let every member who has a petition drop it at once into the bag.

The debate upon this Church-rate Bill was not a little remarkable if for no other reason than this: it drew out six of our most notable men; to wit, Sir William Heathcote and his colleague Mr. Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Disraeli, and Mr. Bright. Sir William Heathcote led off the opposition to the bill. This was a wise and sagacious arrangement, for there is no man in the House of higher standing than Sir William. It is true he is not an orator, nor even a forcible speaker; and people outside who know nothing of the hon. Baronet may wonder that he should thus be placed in the van of the fight. The reason, then, is this. Sir William Heathcote is a man of high position and unblemished character, and these things, though the House has wonderfully changed within the last thirty years, and, perhaps, position and character have not the same influence as they had before the Reform Bill—still have weight in the House, and always will have, at least it is to be hoped so. The hon. Baronet represents the University of Oxford, where he was educated, and took a high position; for, in 1821, he

was first class in classics; in 1824 he graduated B.C.L., and, in 1830, D.C.L. But it is as a country gentleman that he is best known now—an old-fashioned country gentleman living upon his estate, an eminent and active magistrate, a devout and diligent resorter to church, a good landlord, and a kind master; in short, just that sort of country gentleman which Richardson the novelist delighted to draw, only better cultured and more accomplished than the country gentlemen of his day were. Sir William's house is at Hursley Park, in Hampshire; and we mention this fact to note that this estate was formerly Richard Cromwell's, who inherited it from Mr. Mayor, whose daughter "idle Dick" married. And there is another circumstance worth noticing now we are upon this subject. Adjoining the park a beautiful new Gothic church has lately sprung up, of which Mr. Keble, whom we know as one of the apostles of Anglo-Catholicism, is the Rector; and report says that this Gothic gem, for such it is, was built out of the profits of the "Christian Year." This is Sir William's parish church, and there he, with his family, diligently resorts every Sunday when he is at home; but, unlike the knights and squires of the time of the Georges and Queen Anne, he does not ensconce himself in a high pen fenced or curtained off from the people, but upon a bench amongst them, which is surely the better way. Such, then, is Sir William Heathcote, and now our readers will probably see why he was chosen to lead the Opposition in this fight.

THE DEBATE.

The debate did not strike us being very good. On the contrary, it seemed rather dull; but, then, think of the subject! Remember how often it has been before the House. Is it possible to say anything new upon such a hackneyed topic? Why, you might as well expect to get wheat out of a ten-times thrashed sheaf of straw. And then morning sittings are always dull. Whether it is that the genus loci is not the same genius that presides over our evening sessions, or that members will not sit still, but rush in and out of the House and thus disturb the speakers, or that the speakers are not up to the mark so early, we know not, but certain it is that morning debates are never exciting. Everybody said that the speeches were good—that Sir John acquitted himself well—that Sir William made a very good case—that Bright was trenchant as usual—that Gladstone was eloquent as ever—and that Disraeli managed to get cleverly out of the fix of "No surrender!" in which he had placed himself by his speech in the vacation; but still it was allowed that the debate was sadly wanting in force, vivacity, and interest. And any one might have seen that it was not specially attractive; for, though the House was decently filled there were during all the morning nearly as many members outside as there were within. Usually when Gladstone, or Bright, or Russell, or Disraeli rises to speak, all the outlying passages, and lobbies, and offices are cleared in a moment; but it was not so on this occasion. The members were as wild as part-ridges at the end of the season, and no eloquence could hold them in the House.

DIVISION.

But the division-bells soon brought the scattered forces together. It was about 5.15 when the summons was sounded—earlier by a quarter of an hour than was expected; and then there was a rush into the House such as we have not seen for many a day. For two minutes an unbroken volume of members poured into the doors like a torrent, and it seemed as if it would be impossible to get them all in time; but it was accomplished, and when Mr. Speaker arose to put the question there was only one member behind, and he, by a dexterous twist, wriggled himself through the doorway. It is a rule that if a member be in sight of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and be making due haste, the door must be kept open. This gentleman was not in sight when the Sergeant proceeded to close the door, but behind the pillar, and only glanced into sight just as the door was closing. It was a very close shave, and one that we should hardly like to try, for a jam between two heavy oaken doors would not be pleasant. To the last the division was rather doubtful; but, if we could have judged from the manner in which the "voices" were given when the Speaker put the question, we should have said that the "noes" had it, for the shout of "no" was terrific; indeed, it was not "no," but prolonged like the view "halloo!" when a fox breaks cover. But noise here is no criterion of numbers. The Conservative squires can always beat the merchants and lawyers at that game. Still, as we have said, the result was doubtful to the last; and at last both sides were pleased, and both shouted for joy—the Liberals that they had got a victory, the Conservatives that the once-vaunted majority of 70 was reduced to 15 in a House of 551 members—a larger number probably than ever voted before at a morning sitting.

HENNESSY AND LAYARD ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Three noteworthy things occurred on Monday night in the House of Commons. First, Mr. Pope Hennessy spoke upon the Italian question for two hours and a half by the clock, which is a remarkable achievement indeed, seeing that he had few to listen to him, and not a soul to cheer but Sir George Bowyer. The hon. Baronet cheered; and when he spoke Mr. Hennessy returned the compliment; but other cheers neither of them had. Second, Mr. Layard made his first hit; for his speech was not only listened to, but attracted the notice and attention, and expressed approbation of Palmerston, Gladstone, and Russell, who leaned forward to catch every word that he said, and every now and then to cheer him with emphatic "Hear, hear!" Still Mr. Layard is hardly an established success yet; he wants calmness.

A FINE DISTINCTION.—We are requested to state that the "Poor Clergy Society," that has its office at 345, Strand, is not to be confounded with the very excellent "Poor Pious Clergy Society," which was founded by Foster, Cecil, Watkins, Goode, &c., and intended solely for aiding men of real piety.—*Record*.

SIR JAMES OUTRAM.—Measures are being taken to commemorate the services which Sir James Outram has rendered in India during his protracted public career. A very influential meeting, attended by upwards of a score of members of Parliament, besides many other persons of distinction, was held at Willis's Rooms on Monday. Lord Lyveden presided. Very eulogistic speeches were delivered, and resolutions were passed to the effect that one statue should be erected to the gallant General in England and another in India; and that a service of plate, or some other suitable testimonial, should be presented to him personally. A committee was appointed to carry out these objects.

THE FRENCH NAVY IN 1861.—Under this title the *Revue Contemporaine* publishes an interesting article by the Comte de la Tour, a deputy to the Legislative Body. Although the writer indulges in a few sarcasms on the fear of invasion which has manifested itself in England under the shape of the great volunteer movement, and driven that country to expend thirty-six millions in five years on her navy and maritime defences, the article is generally conceived in a spirit of fairness not always to be met with in French publications. Contrasting the French Navy with that of England, which Mr. de la Tour states at 69 screw and 40 sailing line-of-battle-ships; 35 screw, 17 paddle, and 54 sailing frigates; and 26 screw and 16 sailing corvettes, requiring in all 257 captains, while the *Navy List* shows 356 captains in active service, besides 1700 lieutenants, he comes to the conclusion that the French Navy is not provided with a sufficiency of officers. Again, while England will about the end of the year have 84,000 sailors, France will not have more than 30,000. He then points out several improvements which it would be advisable to introduce into the administration of the French Navy, and into the system of coast defences. On the phantom of an invasion of England he expresses himself as follows:—"It would be folly with an inferior fleet to risk the lives of 150,000 men in a naval combat, or even to land it on the coast, supposing it could be done without meeting with resistance. What would become of such an army, deprived as it would be of all succour and provisions? Supposing it were victoriously to overrun the whole territory of Great Britain, its very victories would exhaust it; the circle of its enemies would be constantly forming anew, and the first check would infallibly be a disaster. The English, united and masters of the Channel, are absolutely safe from all invasion. It would be more than foolhardy to go, without reserves and without a basis of operation, to offer a mortal combat to a great nation, unsurpassed by any other in bravery, tenacity, and patriotic pride."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

LORD NORMANBY, in moving for certain documents throwing light upon the various phases which the affairs of Italy have gone through during the last two years, entered in detail into the various circumstances which had occurred in Italy since the peace of Villafranca. Having charged Sir J. Hudson with having been duped in the matter of Savoy and Nice, he turned to consider the present condition of Italy, and scouted the idea of a united Italy—an idea of recent growth, and in opposition to the sentiments of the greatest authorities. Indulging in a severe criticism of the conduct of Victor Emmanuel for his duplicity in supporting Garibaldi in Sicily and afterwards invading Naples, he proceeded to denounce the policy of the Sardinian Government in the Papal States, the intrigues between the King of Sardinia and the Republican party, the atrocious cruelties of the Sardinian troops in the Abruzzi, the proclamations of General Pinelli, and the fate of the reactionists who had dared to raise their standard for Francis II. He said the universal suffrage practised at the late elections was a sham, and that the electors had been intimidated by the presence of revolutionary armies. He declaimed against the inconsistencies of Lord John Russell, the whole of whose policy he severely attacked, and besought the House not to be led away with the idea that the Italians cared anything for English sympathy.

LORD WODEHOUSE vindicated the conduct of the King of Sardinia, and declared that the policy of Lord John Russell in Italy had been one of entire non-intervention. As for the cruelties committed by Sardinian troops, he was not about to defend them; he simply requested the House to remember the provocations which the Piedmontese had received by the massacre of their fellow-soldiers and of harmless country people by bands of brigands. In regard to the elections, it could not be denied that the people were subjected to influences of various kinds, but the system of the plebiscite was certainly preferable to that of old, when provinces were transferred from one Government to another without the pretence of consulting the people at all. Lord Wodehouse next defended Lord J. Russell's course on the Savoy and Nice question, stated what steps had been taken, but in vain, to obtain a military frontier for Switzerland, and reasserted the policy of England in Italy to be that of non-intervention.

LORD MALMESBURY expressed his surprise that information on very interesting topics, such as the blockade of Gaeta, the correspondence with France for preventing the blockade, and the position of Admiral Mundy, had been so scantily supplied by the Government. He then charged Lord J. Russell with inconsistency between his despatches and his policy; for while, according to his despatches, he was opposed to a unification of Italy, he by the policy he had adopted brought about that very unification which he had so deprecated.

LORD LLANOVER denied the sweeping assertions of Lord Normanby in regard to the feelings of the Italians towards England, and insisted that the misfortunes which had befallen the King of Naples were due to his own obstinacy in persisting to govern upon the principles of his father.

LORD NORMANBY made a short reply; after which their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR POLICY IN CHINA.

LORD J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Mr. White, that he had received no information from China of the occupation of Wosung, in the port of Shanghai, by the rebels. As to carrying out the principle of non-intervention as between the insurgents and the Imperial Government of China, her Majesty's Government had always preserved a strict neutrality in that matter.

COLLIERY ACCIDENTS.

MR. DILLWYN called attention to the frequent recurrence of colliery accidents, and asked whether the inspectors of coal mines are subjected to a competitive examination as to fitness for such office, and whether Mr. J. P. Baker, an inspector in South Staffordshire, was subjected to an examination.

SIR G. O. LEWIS said he had received a memorial from several influential gentlemen in Staffordshire recommending Mr. Baker as an experienced mining engineer, and he was appointed.

INCOME TAX.

SIR M. FARQUHAR asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was aware that a document headed "Immediate payment," calling for payment of assessed and income taxes due at Christmas, and suggesting the discharge in advance of taxes due on the 20th of March next, had been issued.

MR. GLADSTONE said that it was under the authority of the local officers that this document had been issued; but instructions had been given by the Board of Inland Revenue to get in three quarters' taxes instead of a half-year's, in conformity with the financial arrangements of last year; but there was no authority to demand the payment in advance of that due in March, and it should not be repeated.

SYRIA.

LORD J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Mr. Monsell, he could not with propriety produce any papers on the subject of the affairs of Syria at the present moment. The French Ambassador at Constantinople had not interfered to support the demand of the Russian Minister for an inquiry into the state of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

TRANSPORTATION.

MR. CHILDERS moved for and obtained a Select Committee to inquire into the present system of transportation—its utility, economy, and effect on colonisation, and whether any improvements could be effected.

THE ADMIRALTY.

ADMIRAL DUNCOMBE moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the constitution of the Board of Admiralty, and the various duties devolving thereon; also as to the general effect of such system on the Navy. He complained in strong terms of the course taken by Sir J. Pakington in endeavouring to forestall him in a motion which he had brought forward last year, and which it was known he intended to bring on again this Session; and then contended that the whole subject of the management of the Navy was obviously defective, and it was necessary to inquire whether some better system could not be adopted.

LORD C. PAGET, while granting the Committee, denied that any great opprobrium ought to be cast on the Admiralty, although he admitted that there were defects in its administration; and perhaps the present was as proper a time as any for an inquiry. He pointed out that, nevertheless, much had been lately done in the way of improving the administration of the department; and he stated that a bill was prepared for the better management of Greenwich Hospital.

SIR J. PAKINGTON stated that the principal object of this necessary inquiry should be to see whether a better system of responsibility in the Admiralty could not be obtained, and also into the position occupied by the First Lord, which was at present most unsatisfactory. He should have preferred a Commission to a Committee of the House.

After some discussion the motion was agreed to.

MONDAY, MARCH 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MR. TURNBULL'S CASE.

THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the circumstances connected with the appointment and resignation of Mr. Turnbull in the Record Office. He said that he should be prepared to show that the resignation was caused by the direct interference of the head of the department acting on the part of Lord Palmerston. Mr. Turnbull had had his office insinuated away on the most flimsy pretexts.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY said that, as Mr. Turnbull had given notice that legal proceedings would be taken by him against the Secretary to the Protestant Alliance, a discussion in that House was very inconvenient, but he felt bound to vindicate himself from the charge of improper interference which had been brought against him. He denied that the objection to Mr. Turnbull was on the score of religion only, but on that of his decided partisanship, which rendered him unfit to deal with documents relating to an important period of the history of England.

THE EARL GRANVILLE defended Lord Palmerston. Mr. Turnbull had done his work very well, and his resignation was not in consonance with the advice of his friends; but, having resigned, the question of his fitness for the duty was properly raised and decided.

THE EARL OF DERBY professed himself quite impartial on this matter, as he knew nothing of Mr. Turnbull, except that he had renounced Protestantism and adopted Catholicism; and whether that gentleman preferred to be lost in company with Papists, rather than be saved by Protestants, was a matter of taste, and he trusted that he would not be called on to accept the alternative. The real question was not one of religion, but whether this gentleman had received the protection a public servant ought to receive against underhand attacks. As far as he (Lord Derby) could learn, Mr. Turnbull had discharged his duty faithfully and with ability; and it was opposed to all justice and policy to allow the reputation and the appointment of a public servant to be whispered away.

After some observations from the Marquis of Lansdowne and Earl Grey, the House divided, when the motion was rejected by 42 to 26.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

MR. GREGORY gave notice for an early day to call the attention of the Government to the expediency of a prompt recognition of the Southern Confederacy of America.

THE POST OFFICE AND ELECTIONS.

Mr. F. PEARL said, in answer to Mr. T. Duncombe, that a letter had been received from the Ballot Society complaining that of a large number of letters which were sent by post in December last to the electors of Ripon many were not delivered; but the Post-office officials denied the non-delivery of the letters, and the Ballot Society was unable to state any person to whom the letters were not delivered.

In Committee on Consolidated Fund and Exchequer Bills.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved resolutions to the effect that the principal and interest of Exchequer bills should be charged on the Consolidated Fund; that the interest be payable half-yearly by coupons, and paid at the Bank of England; that an option be given at the end of each twelve months to the holders of Exchequer bills to be paid the principal, and all such bills not so paid to have currency for the next twelve months; that when such bills are paid off new ones may be issued in their place, and that Exchequer bills shall be receivable for duties imposed during the last six months of each year during which such bills have currency. He pointed out that the object was to prevent Exchequer bills, when presented for payment, being paid out of money which has been voted by Parliament for other purposes; and the plan was intended to carry out a recommendation of a Select Committee of the House on public monies.

Several members having expressed approbation of the plan, Sir H. WILKINSON, who had given notice of a resolution to the effect that no Exchequer bills should be funded without the consent of Parliament, urged that that operation might be carried on at the will of any Finance Minister; but, in answer to an appeal from Mr. Gladstone, he consented to withdraw the resolution on the understanding that the subject would be dealt with by a separate bill.

The resolutions were agreed to.

ITALY.

Mr. HENNESSY called attention to the active interference of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in promoting Piedmontese policy, and to the effect of that policy in Italy. He urged that Lord J. Russell's policy was divided between alternate trucking to Austria and interfering in Italy. He contended that the test of Piedmontese policy under Cavour was to be found in the defective fiscal and commercial arrangements of that kingdom, while agriculture was at a stand, and more especially as compared with other parts of Italy. He accused the Foreign Secretary of having concealed circumstances favourable to the Government of Naples, while everything in its disfavour was carefully made public. He then argued from the published papers on the affairs of Italy that Lord J. Russell, while proposing to leave the Italians to settle their own affairs, had constantly and directly interfered in that country. He proceeded to characterise the conduct of the Sardinian forces in the Two Sicilies as being cruel and bloodthirsty. He next dealt with the question of the elections to the new Italian Parliament, showing that very few persons voted at them, and that irregular means were used to procure the nullification of the election of a noted Republican, Signor Saffi. He then urged that Lord John Russell had directly interfered against the King of Naples and on behalf of Sardinia; and also that all the great alliances of England with the conservative Powers of Europe had been sacrificed, while treaties had been set aside, and the confidence of the world in the honour and integrity of the Foreign Office was destroyed.

Mr. LAYARD said that Mr. Hennessy had omitted all mention of the Italians and their wishes. He had been prepared to move a definite resolution, characterising the policy pursued by the Government in reference to Italy as worthy of England, and in accordance with the feeling of the people; and he had only refrained from a desire not to seem to raise a party question. He argued that no single man of eminence or any of the intelligent middle classes in Italy desired the continuance of the union of the temporal and spiritual power of the Pope; and he dwelt on and illustrated by examples the misrule and oppression which existed under that Government, and contended that Mr. Hennessy and his co-thinkers had been woefully deceived on the subject. The feeling against the Papal Government was growing among the working clergy, who knew the people. He dealt in a similar strain with Naples and Venetia. The hon. gentleman, among other things, quoted from a work of Sir G. Bowyer what was in effect a complete justification, according to the law of nations, of the recent events in Italy.

Sir G. BOWYER characterised Mr. Layard's statement as mere fiction, which had not even the merit of novelty, and laid down what he conceived to be the true policy towards Italy, which was not that which was pursued by the Government.

The debate was adjourned.

THE ADMIRALTY INQUIRY.

Sir J. PAKINGTON complained of Sir Baldwin Walker, a most important witness in the future inquiry into the Board of Admiralty, being allowed to depart for a foreign station, in violation, as he contended, of a pledge given to the House.

Lord PALMERSTON said that steps would be taken to bring Sir B. Walker back.

PAROCHIAL ASSESSMENTS.

A division was taken on the question whether the Parochial Assessments Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, which was agreed to by 17 to 15.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of a bill for enlarging and improving the jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty. It was proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the Court to any claim for necessities supplied to a ship elsewhere than in the port to which she belonged, and the Court would be empowered to grant salvage for human life as well as property in cases occurring beyond the present limit of three miles from the coast. An appeal would be given to the Privy Council on all matters of law.

Lord CRAWFORTH supported the bill, objecting to that part of it which limited the appeal to the Privy Council to questions of law.

Lord CHILMSFORD was of opinion that an appeal on questions of fact should be retained, in which opinion Lord Kingsdown concurred.

The bill was read a second time, it being understood that the clause limiting the appeal would not be pressed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE KOSOUTH NOTES.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Mr. White, that the manufacture of notes in this country with the signature of Kosouth and the crown of Hungary impressed thereon was brought before the Government by the Austrian Ambassador, and on the matter being referred to the law officers it was their opinion that, though the act was illegal, there was no hope of obtaining a conviction. He stated this to the Austrian Envoy, and authorised him to take any steps he thought proper.

STRIKES.

Mr. MACKINNON obtained leave to bring in a bill establishing equitable councils of conciliation to settle differences between masters and operatives.

COLONIAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

Mr. A. MILLS moved for a Select Committee on colonial military expenditure to inquire and report whether any and what alterations may be advantageously adopted in regard to the defence of the British dependencies, and the proportions of cost of such defence as was defrayed from Imperial and colonial funds respectively. He observed that the question was of considerable importance, since it involved the expenditure of £4,000,000 a year, nine-tenths of which sum fell upon the taxation of this country; and he showed that the principle, if there was any principle observed in the proportions contributed by the parent country and by the different colonies, was not uniform.

Mr. MARSH seconded the motion.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE said that a Committee had already inquired into this question, and had been able to suggest no practicable legislation. It was very desirable not to weaken the Imperial hold on the colonies by withdrawing British troops entirely from them. He opposed the motion.

A discussion followed, in the course of which Sir J. TRELAWNY observed on the objectionable fact that so many heads of departments were not members of that House—viz., the Army, Navy, and Colonies.

Lord PALMERSTON urged that the Committee would have to inquire what number of troops should be maintained in the colonies, and by whom they were to be paid. It was too much to leave to the Executive to determine about the disposal of troops, looking to the circumstances which from time to time arose. It was not competent to the Committee, the House, or the Government to decide a question of expenditure which was entirely under the control of the Colonial Legislatures, and must be a matter of negotiation between the Government and them. Although he did not anticipate any useful results from the Committee, yet, as it seemed to be the wish of the House, he would assent to it.

The motion was agreed to.

THE HOP DUTY.

Mr. DOBSON moved that the maintenance of any duty on hops was impolitic, and that in any remission of taxation or adjustment of financial burdens provision should be made for the removal of such duties. He argued that hops was an article most uncertain and costly in its production, limited in its demand, and in every respect unfitted to bear the restrictions imposed on it by an excise duty. The fluctuating nature of the commodity rendered it impossible for the duty to be levied with certainty; and it was the case in the last forty years it was necessary to postpone the payment of the duty no less than thirty times.

Sir BROOK BRYDGES seconded the motion, which was supported by Sir J. Shelley and Lord Pevernsey.

Mr. BRIGHT congratulated the agricultural members on being able, when they had a good case, to make nearly as good speeches as gentlemen connected with other branches of industry. There was no doubt that nothing could be worse than this tax. He objected to the motion because it pledged the House to the application of the very first remission of taxation to the abolition of the hop duty. The position which the House occupied in relation to the House of Lords rendered it necessary to the dignity of this House to take care that no remission of duty took place before that of the paper duty.

Lord HOLMESDALE urged that Mr. Bright's argument amounted to saying that because the papermakers could not get their duty abolished the hop-growers should not have theirs remitted, which was an indefensible one.

Mr. GLADSTONE said that he should not deny the strength of the case made against the hop duty, but should direct his opposition to the motion as it stood. He, however, denied that the operation of the duty was the main cause of the fluctuations of the lottery of the hop trade. It had been privately suggested that the loss of the hop duty might be supplied by an augmentation of the malt tax. He objected to the motion because it was an abstract resolution on a matter of finance, which was the beginning of a course to weaken the authority of the House. There was no ground for giving the hop duty the advantage of a promise of the first remission of taxation.

Mr. DISRAELI, while admitting that the hop duty was a grievance, urged that this was not a sufficient ground for its remission, without due consideration of the prospects of the revenue, which at present exhibited no surplus, but an actual deficiency, only supplied by the imposition of temporary taxes. He also objected to pledging the House to remission of taxation by resolution; especially one which must affect the impending Budget.

On a division the motion was rejected by 202 to 110.

THE NAVY.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE moved for a Select Committee to consider the present system of promotion and retirement in the Royal Navy, and the present pay and position of the several classes of naval officers, and to report what changes therein are desirable, with a view to the increased efficiency of the naval service. He grounded his motion on the assertion that the officers of the Royal Navy were ill-treated both as to pay and promotion, and that a general discontent prevailed the service.

An animated discussion ensued.

On a division the motion was carried by 102 to 97. The Government, by whom the motion was opposed, was thus defeated.

The House adjourned shortly after one o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUPERANNUATION FOR OFFICERS OF PRISONS.

Mr. M. MILNES moved the second reading of the Superannuation (Officers of Prisons) Bill, the object of which was, he said, to place the officers of prisons in the same position with relation to pensions and superannuations as other civil servants of the Crown.

Mr. HENLEY objected to the measure that its principle was founded upon a supposed analogy between those officers and the civil service of the Crown, which had not been established. It was a large question, and ought to be left in the hands of the Government.

Sir G. LEWIS said the present law empowered the county magistrates to grant superannuations to prison officers when incapacitated by sickness, age, or infirmity, not exceeding the scale prescribed by the General Superannuation Act, leaving, therefore, a discretion to the magistrates of which, he thought, they ought not to be deprived. In his opinion, no case had been made out against the sufficiency of the present law, and he should oppose the second reading of the bill.

After a short discussion, Mr. PACE moved to defer the second reading for six months, and this amendment was carried upon a division by 140 to 61; so the bill is lost.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved the order for going into Committee upon the Church-rates Abolition Bill.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved, as an amendment, a resolution that the House would this day resolve itself into a Committee to consider the propriety of establishing, in lieu of church rates, a charge on all hereditaments, in respect of the occupancy of which church rates have been paid within the last seven years; such charge to be levied with the county rate at a uniform rate of poundage, the occupier being entitled to deduct from his rent the amount of the charge. He explained the details of his scheme, the main features of which were the fixing this church charge at 2d. in the pound, and providing that the amount, when collected, should be paid over by the clerks of the peace to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty—a body, he observed, consisting not exclusively of clergymen. He read the resolutions he proposed to move in Committee.

After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn, and the House went into Committee upon the bill, the clauses of which, and the proposed amendments, were under discussion during the remainder of the time allotted to debate.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS AT CAYENNE.

The Earl of DERBY wished to ask the Colonial Secretary whether any bill had been introduced into the Colonial Legislature of British Guiana for the purpose of sanctioning the extradition of prisoners escaping from the French colony of Cayenne?

The Duke of NEWCASTLE was very glad of the opportunity of explaining the subject. He had not received official information to the effect, but he had no doubt the noble Earl's information was correct, because instructions had been sent out from this country in September authorising the introduction of such a measure. A draft of the bill had, however, been prepared very carefully by the Queen's Advocate, and political offenders were most carefully excluded from the operation of the bill, which would only include those offences which were included in the convention of 1843. He had no objection to lay the despatches on the table.

THE STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL.

After a good deal of discussion, the bill passed through Committee.

THE PAPER DUTIES.

The Earl of CAMPELDON moved that there be laid before the House an account of the gross and net produce of the paper duties for one year, to the latest date to which the same can be made up.

The Earl of DERBY suggested that the returns should be for more than the last year.

The motion was amended so as to embrace the last three years, and was then agreed to.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE YELVERTON CASE.

Major GAVIN asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether his attention had been called to the case of "Theilwall v. Yelverton;" and whether the name of Major Yelverton is to be retained in her Majesty's Army List.

Captain ARCHDALL, before the question was answered, wished to know whether the Government thought it expedient to answer the question under the present circumstances.

Sir F. G. BARKING said, in reply, that Major Yelverton had been suspended in order that inquiries should be made with reference to the case.

SYRIA.

Mr. FITZGERALD asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether, if the Conference now sitting in Paris to consider the propriety of prolonging the French occupation of Syria should be invited to consider the question of an increase of the force now in that country, her Majesty's Government are prepared to refuse their assent to that proposal; and whether the information that he has received leads him to believe that the number of 6000 men, to which the French force is limited by the convention, has not been exceeded.

Lord J. RUSSELL in reply stated, on the first point he could not at present express any decided opinion; with reference to the latter, he did not think the number of the French troops exceeded 6000.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Lord PALMERSTON said, as it would be convenient to adjourn on the Monday before Good Friday for a fortnight at Easter, and it would not be desirable to do that before the passing of the Mutiny Bill, he would suggest that the hon. gentlemen who had put motions on the paper to be moved on going into Committee of Supply should withhold them for the present and take some other opportunity of moving them; otherwise the House would probably have to sit until the Thursday before Good Friday.

THE AFFAIRS OF ITALY.—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The order of the day for the adjourned debate on the policy of Sardinia and her Majesty's Government in relation to the affairs of Italy having been read, Mr. E. JAMES rose to testify to the wrongs—political, religious, and social—endured by the people of Italy, and the heroic disinterestedness of Garibaldi. The hon. and learned gentleman expressed his belief that the temporal power of the Pope was doomed; and asserted that the policy pursued by the Foreign Secretary during the recent events in Italy

was wise and enlightened, and would be recorded by history as amongst the brightest in the annals of England.

Sir R. PEARL said that the policy dictated to the Government by the people of England was that of non-intervention, coupled with a stern expression of sympathy for the sufferings of the people of Italy.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER commented upon the breach of faith committed by the old King of Naples towards the people in reference to the promised Constitution of May, 1848; and characterised the reign of that monarch as built up by, and founded upon, a denial of justice and a violation of all law. His son, who succeeded him, had thrown away a splendid opportunity for impressing a glorious name upon the pages of history; but no one had marred a brilliant fortune more completely than the miserable and unhappy Francis II. But, sad as were the records of Neapolitan rule, the ecclesiastical authorities of the States of the Church were still more fruitful of oppression and injustice. The manner in which the inhabitants of these States had been handed over once to the military Government of Austria was such that had the people borne it they would have been no better than worms fit to be trodden under foot. Having read extracts to prove the atrocities which had been committed in the States of the Church and in the territory of the Duke of Modena, the right hon. gentleman argued that the consolidation of Italy would be a boon not only to the Italians themselves but also to every Power in Europe.

Mr. MAGUIRE contended that the States of the Church had been well governed, and that, prior to the revolution, they were advancing gradually to a position of great prosperity.

After some observations from Mr. A. Russell and Mr. M. Milnes, Mr. ROCKBURN said he was in favour of a united Italy, wholly Italian. The 10,000 soldiers at Rome must, however, be withdrawn, and the country delivered from the vassalage of France before that desirable object could be obtained. He had no faith in the Emperor of France, and he warned the Government not to allow themselves to be made the tool of that Power. The influence of Austria was necessary as a counterpoise to that of France, and now that she had become a constitutional monarchy her presence in Venetia was necessary, and England ought to assist Austria, for that empire had no interest adverse to that of England.

Mr. MONSELL entered into a vindication of the Papal policy, and condemned that of her Majesty's Government in relation to Italy generally.

Lord J. RUSSELL defended his policy in regard to Italy, and emphatically denied that he was actuated by any feelings of hostility against the Sovereign of Rome because he was a Roman Catholic Monarch. Why, the greatest enemies to the temporal sovereignty of the Pope were all Roman Catholics. As to Naples, it was his opinion that a more abominable and tyrannical system of Government had never existed than that of Francis II. The noble Lord then proceeded at some length to detail instances of cruelty and oppression suffered by the Neapolitan people, which fully justified them in their efforts to relieve themselves from their iron yoke. With regard to Austria, all he should say was that so long as she was able to maintain her power he should be glad of it. England had often to maintain the same cause as Austria, which was no doubt a great conservative Power in the middle of Europe, and had preserved many institutions of great political and social advantage. He was disposed to think that the new Constitution granted by her would go far to mitigate or remedy many of the evils complained of by her people. Austria would find it her interest to allow Venetia to be governed according to the wishes of the inhabitants. It would not, however, be the policy of this country to go to war in order to keep Venetia in the power of Austria against the wishes of the people of Venetia. In reference to France he expressed his gratification at seeing her restored to that freedom of discussion and liberty of speech which had been so long withheld from her. He trusted that those ameliorations in the Government of the people of France would tend to unite the two greatest nations of Europe more closely than ever, and that the peoples of both countries, discarding every feeling of hostility, would blend their interests together in one common sentiment of amity and good humour.

After some further discussion the debate terminated without any definite result.

LAUNCH OF THE BLACK PRINCE.

The Black Prince, iron-cased screw-frigate—the companion, as it may be termed, of the Warrior, recently launched on the Thames—was successfully launched on Wednesday week from Messrs. Napier's building-yard on the Clyde. The graceful and easy movement of the vessel down the ways into the water was the theme of general remark. The noble-looking vessel was rounded and brought to a right position in the river without jerk or accident of any kind.

The Black Prince has the following general dimensions:—

Length, extreme, about.....	420 feet
Length between perpendiculars	380 "
Breadth, extreme.....	58 "
Depth from spar-deck	41 1/2 "
Builders' measurement	6173 tons.

She has been constructed to carry forty guns, thirty-four of which are to be placed on the lower and six on the upper deck. It is supposed that the vessel will be mounted with 68-pounder long-range guns, but it is probable that ultimately Armstrong 100-pounders or rifled guns will be introduced. About 213 feet of each side of the vessel is rendered invulnerable to shot or shell by armour-plates of wrought iron, from 15 to 16 feet long, 3 to 4 broad, and 4 1/2 inches thick, each averaging upwards of four tons. Their edges are planed, and fitted together with tenon and groove joints.

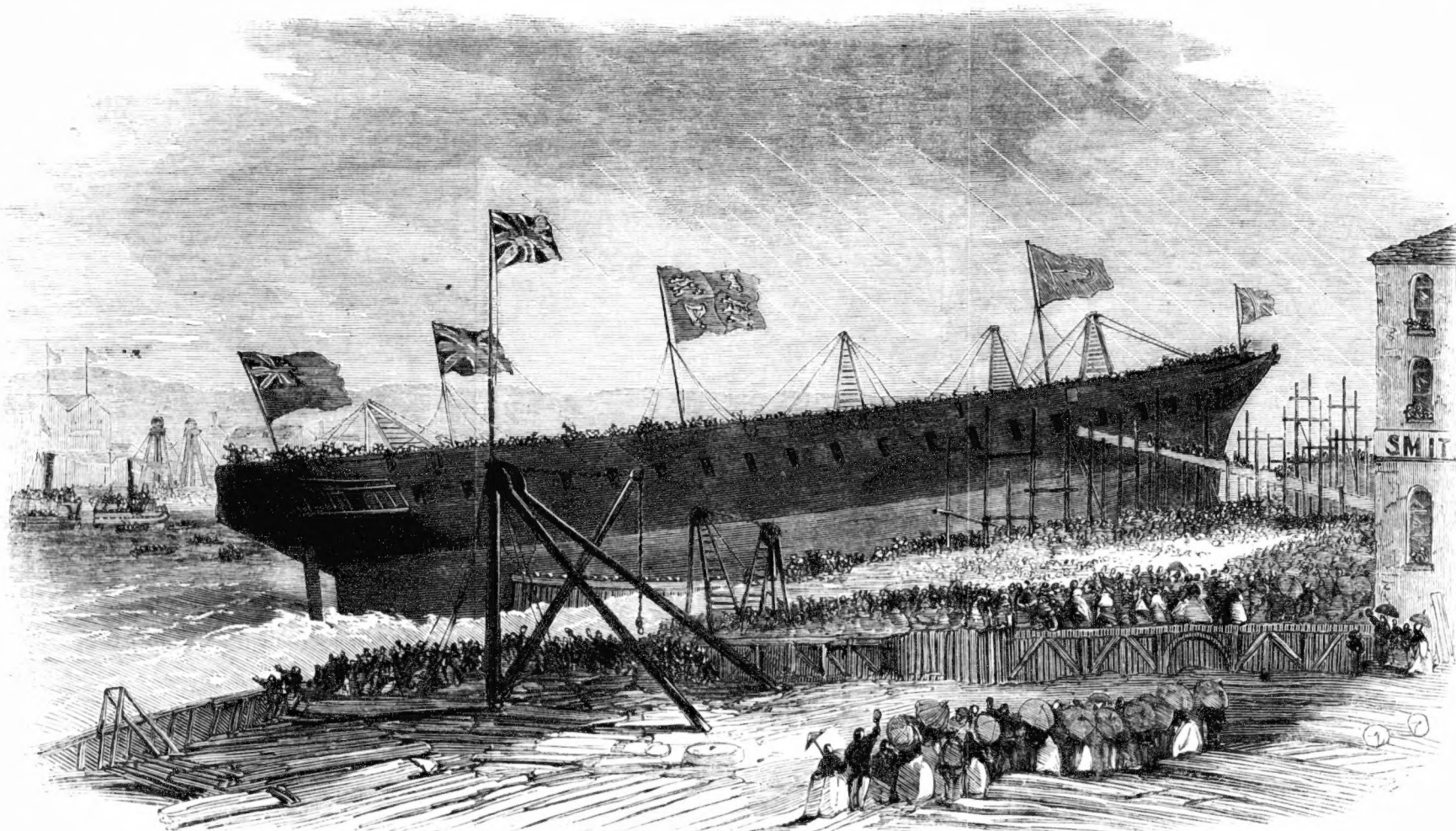
In order to deaden the effect of shot, 18 inches of Indian teak wood are interposed between the armour and the "skin," or really water-tight iron shell of the vessel. The teak is of two thicknesses, of 10 and 8 inches—the former being laid with the lengthway of the plank, running fore and aft, and the other layer of 8 inches being placed vertically. This sheathing of iron and wood extends from a little above the gunwale to about 5 1/2 feet below the water line.

The armour-sheathed space is pierced on the main or gun deck with thirteen portholes on each side for 26 guns. These ports are contracted to about 2 feet, in consequence of the carriage being so constructed that the gun-pivots round a point near the outer edge of the port. It is expected that the armament will consist of thirty-four 68-pounders on the main or gun deck; two 68-pounders, pivot guns; and four 40-pounders, Armstrong guns.

The central armour-clad space and the bottom of the ship are divided into water-tight compartments, in order to keep the vessel afloat if seriously damaged; and by this means any damage to the exterior plating, and the flooding arising from it, will be merely local. The masts and rigging of an 80-gun ship, at present in the Royal George Dockyard, are to be applied to the fitting of the Black Prince. The engines, which are being manufactured by Messrs. John Penn and Sons of Greenwich, will be taken on board at Greenock; and, although they are nominally only 1250-horse power, yet they may be wrought up to about 4000 or 5000. It is expected that the vessel will attain the speed of 14 or 15 knots an hour.

The moulded depth of the vessel is 41 feet. The armour-plates cover 22 feet in depth of the top sides, sixteen of which will be exposed above the water-line, the armour thus descending about 6 feet below the surface of the water. The intention of Government originally was that the vessel should be a steam-ram, for the purpose of running down an enemy's vessel, and it was accordingly constructed with a stem of dimensions and strength commensurate with the work it was designed to accomplish. But the stem might be shattered by the collision, or it might be completely blown away, and so might the stern, which is not protected with armour. But even should the stem and stern be blown to shatters, a new stem and stern are lying ready-made underneath. The keel of the vessel is placed internally, where it forms one of an extensive set of girders which run fore and aft, and between these deep floor-plates are introduced, to the lower edge of which and to the girders the plating of the bottom is attached. The frames, which consist of 10-inch plates and angle-irons, are riveted to the inside cage of the floors, and a great part of the bottom is then plated over on the inside of these, and made perfectly water-tight, thus forming a double security in case of injury to the bottom from grounding or any other cause. The vessel is built in compartments, so that in the event of any part receiving damage, the damage is confined to the particular locality. For this purpose there are strong iron bulkheads running longitudinally, from within a few yards of the stern, on each side of the vessel.

The figure head, which represents Edward the Black Prince in a complete suit of armour of the period, has been carved with much artistic skill from a built block of wood 16 feet in length.



THE LAUNCH OF THE IRON-CLAD STEAM-FRIGATE "THE BLACK PRINCE."—(FROM A SKETCH BY J. M'CULLOCK.)



FRANCIS II. TAKING LEAVE OF THE GARRISON OF GAETA.

THE PENSACOLA NAVY-YARD AND
FORT PICKENS.

One of the most daring acts committed by the Southern secessionists against the Federal Government of the United States has been the seizure of the Pensacola Navy Yard and of the adjacent Forts M'Rae and Barrancas. This seizure was effected on the 10th ult. by a body of troops belonging to the State of Florida.

Fort Pickens, by far the strongest of the three forts in Pensacola Bay, still remains in possession of the Federal Government, owing to the courage and decision of Lieutenant Stimmer, the officer in command; but how long it will remain so is still a question, although, from its commanding position, it is not likely to be taken without the co-operation of a ship of war.

Fort Pickens is situated upon the right hand of the entrance of the Bay of Pensacola. Upon the left hand is Fort M'Rae, and upon the same shore further up the bay, one mile and a quarter further up the bay, is Fort Barrancas. These forts are equidistant from each other and so situated as completely to command the entrance to the harbour. Fort Pickens is an admirably-constructed fortification, at the extremity of a long, narrow sand spit which separates the bay from the Gulf for some distance. This fort is so situated as really to command the entrance to the bay completely. It is approachable by land only along the narrow neck mentioned above, and its defences are so arranged that even a small force may defend it against vastly superior

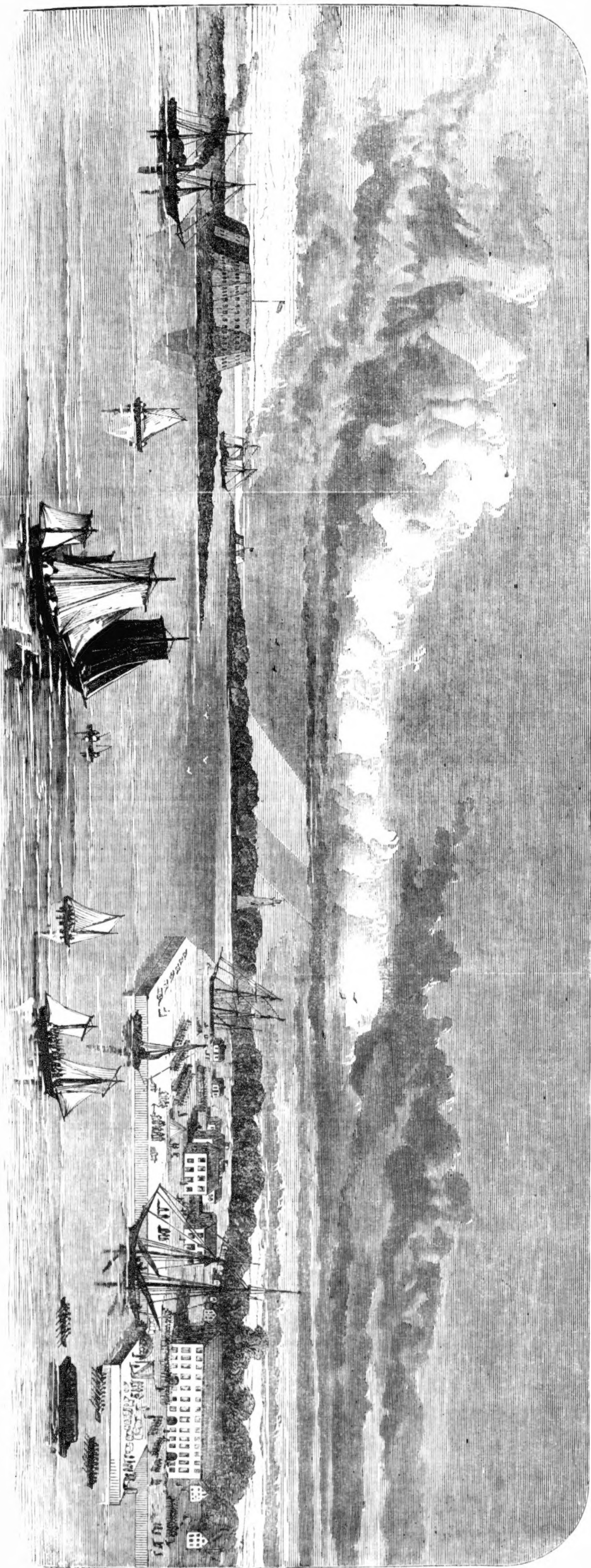


CASTLE PINCKNEY AND FORT SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA.

number. Fort M'Rae is rather a dilapidated concern, but is, nevertheless, a strong water-battery. Fort Barrancas is well built and a powerful defence of the entrance of the harbour, but neither its construction nor position is adapted to resist a strong land attack. These three large fortifications, with all their guns, ammunition &c, were in charge of a single company of artillery, under the command, at present, of Lieutenant A.J. Stimmer. This occupied the barracks near Fort Barrancas.

The Navy Yard is situated upon the same shore of the bay with Fort M'Rae and Barrancas, about one mile and a half above the latter. When captured the disposable force at the yard consisted of about seventy sailors, or "ordinary men," as they are termed, and forty-eight marines. There were also at the yard the United States' store-ship Supply, with two thirty-pounders and thirty-eight men, and the steamer Wyandot, with six thirty-twos and eighty men.

The rumor of the intended seizure reached the Federal authorities at the Pensacola works about the 9th of last month, and Lieutenant Stimmer, deeming that Fort Barrancas was in too weak a condition to resist an attack, determined to remove his forces, ammunition, supplies, and arms to Fort Pickens, on the opposite side of the channel, which, besides being a strong fort, also commanded the entrance to the bay and the other forts. The Navy Yard, which is distant about two miles and a half, is beyond the range of the guns at Fort Pickens. In accordance with this



FORT PICKENS.

FORT M'RAE.

PENSACOLA BAY, SHOWING THE NAVY YARD AND THE FORTS—(FROM SKETCHES BY H. R. STIMMER.)

NAVY YARD.

design, on the morning of the 10th, the force under Lieutenant Slemmer's command was transferred to Fort Pickens by means of boats from the U. S. steamer Wyandot and the storeship Supply. Fort M'Raë, which was in too dilapidated a condition to be of any great service, was abandoned, and about 23,000 lbs. of powder, together with a quantity of fuses and shot and the tackling and gear of the guns, were destroyed. The guns at Barrancas were spiked, and were in that condition when the Florida troops, under command of Colonel Lomax, took possession of the fort.

These movements had been but a short time executed when the State troops made their appearance, and the Navy Yard was surrounded, with but a short parley. The marines in the barracks, to the number of thirty-six, were made prisoners, together with the labourers and employes in the yard. On the following day the storeship, under a flag of truce, proceeded to the wharf of the Navy Yard, where the labourers and marines were taken on board.

Since these events transpired the steamer Wyandot has been cruising in the bay, rendering assistance in different ways to the force under Lieutenant Slemmer's command at Fort Pickens. The Wyandot will remain in the neighbourhood of the fort until reinforcements arrive, or until its possessors are compelled by an attack to abandon it. In the latter event, it is believed that the guns of the fort will be spiked and the fort itself blown up, while the garrison by means of boats escape from the beach to the steamer.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1861.

RAILWAYS AND THE POOR IN LONDON.

A FEW weeks ago the dwellings of the poor in agricultural districts formed the subject of indignant discussion in the newspapers; even so much that *Punch*, who always takes up the loudest cry, came out with a two-page cartoon highly illustrative of the indifference of landlords to the health and comfort of their cottagers. More lately the House of Lords has been occupied with a similar grievance—the overcrowding of the poor in London; not by the cupidity of noble landlords, but by the enterprise of commercial speculators. This evil has been allowed to drop out of sight at once. The *Times* laughs at it; no indignant letter-writer is allowed to season its columns with pungent remarks on this grievance; *Punch* finds it not so easy to satirise the selfishness of commerce as of a bloated aristocracy. Nevertheless, we may be permitted to think the cases equally hard, and that both deserve consideration.

When, four years ago, Dr. Letheby made his report on the sanitary condition of the City he horrified us with a picture of overcrowding which till then had never been imagined. He found that 1859 rooms were inhabited by 5791 persons. Whole families—men, women, and children—or half a dozen adults of both sexes, were in many cases herded together in a small, filthy, ill-ventilated room; and, according to the testimony of Lord Shaftesbury and other more recent observers, things are pretty much in the same condition now. Grand new streets are formed, "public improvements" of various sorts are vigorously prosecuted, and we hear in almost every case of the vast benefit which arises to the community at large from the demolition of nests of low lodging-houses occupied by poverty, crime, and disease. Nothing is said as to where the poverty, crime, and disease thus expelled take refuge; nothing do we hear of the building of healthier houses for the accommodation of the dislodged poor. But they must live somewhere. What is more, to live at all many of them must remain near the spot whence they were expelled, for their work is there; the result of which is, that when you run a beautiful wide street through a densely-populated neighbourhood of poor the inhabitants become more densely packed—that is all. You destroy one half the nest, which is an improvement; but you drive all the poverty, crime, and disease into the other half, which is none. Thus, a few years ago there was a great demolition of old, fever-stricken houses near Field-lane, in Holborn. A thousand houses, which had sheltered 4000 families, or 12,000 individuals, were taken down; and very nearly the whole of the inhabitants were driven into adjoining tenements. This is Lord Shaftesbury's story; the Bishop of London has a similar one to tell. When Victor-a-street, Westminster, was completed, 5000 persons were dislodged. Of these, one fourth took refuge on the other side of the river (already densely crowded), the other three-fourths remained in the parish; "so that the same dwellings received three or four times the number of inhabitants." The *Times* wonders why, in such cases, the expelled do not judiciously scatter themselves evenly through the metropolis, or flow over into the pleasant suburbs. It believes nobody can tell why they do not; and, in despair of any other explanation, suggests that there may be some attraction of misery to misery, and dirt to dirt. Perhaps there is—and of wealth to wealth; and thus there are Belgravias and Shoreditches. The rich naturally go together, and so do the poor. There are many reasons why people of the same class must live in community; but, besides those that apply to all classes, there are others peculiarly binding on the poor. To live they have to work; and therefore, at all risks, they must lodge where their work is to be done. Again, in all poor neighbourhoods cheap markets are

established, a matter of great importance. The labourer employed on the river, the tailor or the shoemaker who toils fourteen hours a day for shopkeepers in the Strand, might find it more pleasant to live at Streatham than at Lambeth; but they have no time neither strength to stroll to and fro the suburbs night and morning, and provisions in the one place are ten or twelve per cent dearer than in the other.

However, it is unnecessary to insist farther on the fact that, whether by laws natural or unnatural, the labouring classes in London do congregate in certain districts; that these districts are so overcrowded as to breed the worst forms of immorality and the deadliest diseases; that now and then "improvement" comes and sweeps away one half such a neighbourhood, and that, as the result, the haunts of poverty become denser, and consequently more vicious and unhealthy, than before. This is known to be the end as regards many important works—the value of which we do not deny—already completed; and Lord Derby's case in the House of Lords was that the railroads which are to cut up the metropolis in all directions are likely to aggravate the evil. By one estimate thirty thousand poor will be dislodged from their present tenements, all in the course of a few months, should these railroad schemes be carried out, and no provision for the expelled (except such as they cannot avail themselves of) is mentioned. One parish—that of St. Bartholomew, Moorfields—is to be half demolished for the purposes of the Metropolitan Extension, and this parish already contains a population of five thousand persons in five hundred houses. It will not be supposed that we have any objection to railways, as such; but we do protest against their being allowed to oust the poor of London from their foul dwelling-places to still fouler ones—for which, too, they have to pay an increased rental, as the consequence of a sudden "demand." Railways are much, but they are not everything; and we think it ought to be considered whether we cannot have them in London without directly increasing the misery and immorality of a large part of its inhabitants. This ought to be the work of the Railway Committees; but, as they do not act in concert, we can hope little from them. We are quite of opinion with some speakers who joined the debate that a Railway Board would be beneficial, if only to consider this question of London railways and the London poor.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

MR. CAVE, an Englishman, was bathing in the Nile on the 30th of January, when the current carried him away and he was drowned. Mr. Cave was younger brother of the member for Shoreham. He was in his twenty-sixth year.

A REDUCTION of upwards of 15,000 men is about to be made in the strength of the British Army. The Artillery and Engineers are somewhat increased, as are also the auxiliary departments of the Army, such as the Army Hospital Corps, Commissariat Staff Corps, &c.

COLONEL JAMES TRAYERS, late 2nd Bengal Native Infantry, and Lieut.-Colonel James Brown, O.B., late 46th Bengal Native Infantry, are to have the Victoria Cross for gallant conduct in India.

A RUMOUR PREVAILS at CAMBRIDGE that a public Commencement will be held there this year, and that her Majesty and his Royal Highness the Chancellor will honour the University with their presence on the occasion.

MR. W. H. RUSSELL, the editor of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, is about to proceed to the United States on a special mission with which he has been intrusted by the *Times*, as their correspondent.

GENERAL CIALDINI has declined the proffered title of Duc de Gaeta.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH is about to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

AN IMMENSE QUANTITY OF GRAIN HAS BEEN DESTROYED at Galatz by inundations.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have awarded a pension of £120 per annum to the widow of the gallant Captain Boyd. The pension under ordinary circumstances would have been only £90.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT has been presented to the Secretary of State for War on the results of elaborate investigations and experiments made at Woolwich and Chatham by a committee on the application of electricity, from different sources, to the explosion of gunpowder.

M. GUIZOT is about to establish a newspaper in Paris, for which the French Government has accorded a concession.

THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL has asked leave to send some officers of engineers to Antwerp to assist in the construction of the fortifications. The request was at once granted by the Belgian Government.

A PERFECTLY SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT has been made to illuminate the courts of the Tuileries and the Place du Carrousel by the electric light.

A REPORT has been recently presented to the Paris Academy of Sciences on the deterioration of Egyptian wheat which has been going on during recent years. The causes are stated to be the want of new seed and the bad quality of the land selected for sowing wheat.

THE APPROACHING MARRIAGE is announced of the reigning Prince of Liechtenstein with the Princess Mathilde of Bavaria, sister of the Empress of Austria; also that of the Count of Meran, son of the late Archduke John, with a Princess Liechtenstein.

SIR GEORGE COOPER, BART., Comptroller of the Household of the Duchess of Kent, expired on Thursday week at Frogmore, after a short illness.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE at SANDHURST is to be enlarged, for the purpose of accommodating five hundred cadets, and a new riding-house is to be built. The lecture and model rooms, and museum, will be finished in the course of the year.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR has, upon the recommendation of his Royal Highness the General Commanding in Chief, sanctioned the admission of the children of deceased soldiers into the army schools on the same terms as the children of soldiers in active service.

A VALUABLE HORSE was standing near the Beaulieu railway station on the South-Western line, a few days since, while a train was approaching. The animal appeared greatly frightened by the noise of the train, and it soon afterward fell down dead. A blood-vessel near the heart was ruptured, in consequence, it is believed, of excitement from fear.

A GREAT MANY CASKS OF FLOUR have been picked up on the West Sussex coast from some vessel that is supposed to have been wrecked there.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE KING OF HOLLAND was appropriately celebrated some days back by a general collection, throughout the whole country, for the relief of the sufferers by the inundations. A very large sum was collected.

THE THAMES TUNNEL is to be made a railway, we hear.

THE FRENCH SOCIETY OF ACCLIMATISATION has just been informed, by a letter from Vice-Admiral Charner, that a fine collection of Chinese birds and quadrupeds will shortly be forwarded for its Zoological Garden in the Bois de Boulogne.

MR. YARDLEY officiated at the Thames Police Court for the last time on Monday. He has been a magistrate fourteen years, and succeeded the late Mr. Broderip when that gentleman was transferred from the Thames to the Westminster Police Court. Mr. Yardley now officiates at Marylebone.

THE REMAINS OF CAPTAIN BOYD, the lamented Commander of the *Ajax*, were consigned to their resting-place in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday, amid extraordinary demonstrations of respect from the people of all classes.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has been present at some extensive artillery experiments in the vicinity of the capital. Amongst other matters which engaged the attention of his Majesty was gun-cotton, with which several guns were fired, and it is said that all the inconveniences arising from the use of this material have been successfully overcome.

THE *Pungolo* of Milan states that the bombardment of Gaeta has cost twenty-five millions of francs.

THE CHIEF EDITOR of the *Campanie*, an ultra-clerical journal of Turin, has just been condemned to a year's imprisonment and 250*l.* fine for an article entitled "The Capitulation of Gaeta."

THE *Unità Italiana* of Genoa, a Mazzinian organ, publishes an article by the pen of M. Mazzini, in which he complains that the army of Italy is only composed of 200,000 men! A force quite insufficient, in his opinion, to complete the Italian revolution.

MR. JOHN MADDOX, so well known in connection with the Princess Theatre, expired on Tuesday morning at his residence at Brompton, after a protracted and painful illness. The deceased was a Jew.

THE RIGHT HON. THE SPEAKER gave his fourth Parliamentary full-dress dinner on Wednesday evening.

A HAIRDRESSER at BRISTOL has been fined five shillings for following his trade on Sunday.

THERE APPEARS AT PRESENT LITTLE PROBABILITY that the turn-out amongst the power-loom weavers at Bolton will soon be ended, and there is every probability of a turn-out amongst the operative spinners and other branches of the factory hands.

MR. TORRENS M'CULLAGH has expressed his intention of becoming a candidate for the proposed new borough of Chelsea.

A MOVEMENT is already being initiated in Ireland for a revision of the Irish marriage law, the necessity of which has received a striking illustration in the Yelverton case. A meeting on the subject was to have been held in Belfast on Wednesday night.

THE MURDER IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—Henry Lacy, of St. Helens, near Ryde, who killed his wife in a fit of jealousy and delirium tremens, has been convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

MR. JOHN CROSS, whose picture of "Richard I. Pardoning the Archer" occupies a place in the House of Parliament and gained a prize at Westminster Hall, died last week.

DR. SEAMANN, commissioned by the British Government to explore the Pelee Islands, arrived at Sydney on the 11th of December, on his return from a visit of inspection. His opinion of the capabilities of these islands is very favourable, and there seems every probability that they will be added to the possessions of the British Crown.

THE GOVERNMENT is said to have decided upon dividing the Channel Fleet into two portions—one to be denominated the Portsmouth division, and the other portion the Plymouth division. Each division, it is expected, will be commanded by a junior Admiral, and a Commander-in-Chief will be unnecessary.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON Tuesday the Government, in the matter of Mr. Arthur Mills's motion for a Committee to inquire into the expense of defending our colonial dependencies, were not defeated simply because Lord Palmerston at the last moment consented to the motion. On Sir James Elphinstone's motion for a Committee on the subject of Navy promotion, pay, and retirement, Ministers were actually defeated by a majority of five. Practically, therefore, there were two defeats in one night. This would seem to look like "the beginning of the end," but it must be remembered that now any Government would be liable to these accidents. No "whip," however sagacious, can guard against them. On the latter occasion Mr. Brand thought he was quite safe, and therefore did not trouble himself to bring up more forces; but when a Government's foes are those of its own household it is clear that all calculation may fail. Who could have imagined, for example, that some half-dozen Liberal Scotch members would suddenly turn round and oppose the Government? The Scotch Liberal members are generally as trustworthy in the House as a Scotch regiment is in the field. I do not myself augur that these defeats point to a coming crisis, though I must confess that generally through the House there is an uneasy feeling of apprehension of rocks ahead. Much will depend upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget, which, however, I do not imagine we shall get before Easter.

The great difficulty in the way of forming and carrying on a Conservative Government is the question of foreign policy. On this subject the Conservative party is seriously divided. This was most obvious during the Italian debate on Monday night. Whilst Mr. Hennessy and Sir George Bowyer (both Conservatives) were speaking they were now and then greeted by timid cheers from certain Conservatives; others of the party looked as if they would have cheered but dared not—willing to wound the Italian cause, yet afraid to strike. But, on the other hand, Mr. Layard's speech was frequently greeted by sundry other members of the Opposition with emphatic expressions of approbation. All this is very significant. It shows that on this subject there is a serious schism in the Conservative camp. Indeed, how can it be otherwise? What sympathy can there be between quiet, solid, Protestant English country gentlemen—like Walpole, Henley, Sir William Heathcote, not to mention Newdegate and Spooner—and such men as Hennessy, Bowyer, Maguire, &c.?

Much surprise has been excited by the delay which has occurred in bringing up Mr. Leatham to judgment. He has applied for a new trial and failed. Why, then, should he not be sentenced? I understand the alleged cause is this:—Mr. Charlesworth is to be indicted and tried, and the Government intend to postpone the sentencing of Mr. Leatham until the result of Charlesworth's trial shall be known. The philosophy of this is not easily seen. It is now rumoured that Captain Gordon, the member for Berwick, whom the Commission has reported as having been guilty of bribery will certainly be prosecuted.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

THAT it is better to let sleeping dogs alone, and that fools are in the habit of pushing forward where wiser men hold back, we learn on good old proverbial authority; but perhaps there has never been an exemplification of the truth of both sayings than is furnished this month by a perusal of the third letter of Paterfamilias on the management of Eton, in the *Cornhill*. Every unbiassed reader of the two former letters must have been struck by their power and evident truthfulness; but it appears that the cudgels for the other side have been taken up by one Mr. Johnson, an assistant master of the school, and it is principally by his demolition that the *Cornhill* article is devoted. To those who recognise the writer's pen, not only in this but in other fields of periodical literature, it is needless to say that the scalping is magnificently and most skillfully performed; but Paterfamilias, not content with having finished his opponent, proceeds to dilate upon other abuses of the institution of which Mr. Johnson is the champion; and his revelations—notably of the leave-taking alms-seeking—will certainly astonish the world. All that was said last month of the "Adventures of Philip," may be repeated of the present number with additional laudation; the story makes but little progress, it is true, a stumbling-block to regular novel-readers; but the character-sketches and general descriptions are excellent. How good, too, are the names, never seemingly strained, and yet so applicable; and how natural the dialogue throughout, whether it be that of the lodging-house-keepers or of the fast young lord! Few stories would read well after "Philip," but few could read worse than this month's instalment of "Horace Saltoun," which is forced, unnatural, and, in its delirium-tremens details, positively repulsive. "Toilers and Spinners" is the punning title of a rather twaddly article descriptive of a visit to the Victoria Printing Press and to the Needlewoman's Home. Then there is an average article on "Health," a paper on the emancipation of the Russian serfs, a long and dull poem called "The River," the continuation of "Framley Parsonage," and a strong puff for the Turkish bath, in which readers will find a neatly and pleasantly expressed opinion that their usual cold tubbing and yellow soap not only fails to cleanse the skin, but "tends to keep the pores clogged with dirt."

Fraser opens with a continuation of "Good for Nothing," which

reads like a feeble imitation of the author of "Guy Livingstone's" style, without the classical reading, the life, knowledge, and the descriptive power of the author of that work. The number generally is, however, very good. There is a capital paper on "Dante," two healthy, sound, sensible articles of a kindred spirit, called respectively, "A Few Words on Tours and Tourists," and "A Mount on Shanks's Mare;" the most impartial and one of the clearest notices which we have yet seen of "Mr. Piozzi's Autobiography;" a slashing article on the Turnbull case, under the title "The Inquisition in England," and some good verses.

Mr. Sala's serial takes the place of honour in *Temple Bar*, and is continued with great spirit and never-failing interest. Mrs. Armytage and her proceedings may be a little melodramatic, but the account of the Rector of Swordsley, and his troubles and disputes with his bigoted parishioners is thoroughly natural and lifelike. Most truthful, too, is the description of Belgian scenery and country life. There is a pleasant, readable article in "Paracelsus," a gossiping fund of information on early French newspapers, derived from M. Hatin's book, and called "Mme. Doubiet's News-Saloon;" a well-written biographical and critical essay on Mrs. Inchbald, and an admirable review of Mr. Motley's new work, in which, while due justice is done to the historian all his shortcomings and errors are unflinchingly pointed out. Papers on "Giants and Dwarfs," and "The Management of Servants," come under the head of what has recently been called "padding," but they are both well-written articles, and will, doubtless, interest many readers. "The Art of Sucking Certain Eggs," is a humorous essay on the best means of avoiding the ills of travelling, written with great truth and comic power. The poetry of the number is far beyond that given in any of its contemporaries. "Death-bed Secrets" has a strange, weird power, and its unlooked for climax will startle most readers. "Through the Bar" is a pleasant Prædian set of rhymes, but "The Desolate" is a real poem, full of fine thought and imagery. The stanza commencing "Out in the fields where the sun is bright," might have been written by the laureate himself without derogating from his position.

Blackwood is intensely heavy this month. Articles on the "Indian Civil Service," the "Physical Geography of the Sea," "Iron-clad Ships of War," "Wilson's German Campaign of 1813," and the recent "China War," form the number.

The *Dublin University* is much better than usual. Among many good articles it contains a laudatory review of Mr. Froude's History, a terrible onslaught on Mr. Dixon's "Life of Bacon," an interesting chapter on the "Work-a-day World of France," and a pleasant, genial article, "Anon, Anon, Sir," deprecating the present system of attaching the names of the authors to magazine articles, and earnestly inviting a return to the old anonymous system.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A little story called "The Duke's Dilemma," contributed by Mr. Hartmann to *Blackwood* some years since, has afforded Mr. Tom Taylor materials for a new piece, "A Duke in Difficulties," produced at the Haymarket on Wednesday. The plot is trifling enough, but advantage has been taken of the story to give a personal interest to the piece in the characters of a mother and daughter, played by Mrs. and Miss Stirling, and to make the dialogue the vehicle for many telling allusions. Both mother and daughter played charmingly, and were overwhelmed with applause.

Literature.

Autobiography, Letters, and Literary Remains of Mrs. Piozzi (Thrale). Edited, with Notes, and an Introductory Account of her Life and Writings, by A. HAYWARD, Esq., Q.C. Two vols. Longman and Co.

Dr. Johnson again, and plenty of him; and we understand him no better than ever. So mysterious is the "mystery of a person"! But he is a capital subject for anecdotal celebrity. He has sufficient solid merit of mind and heart to make it worth while to talk about him. He has so many oddities and angularities that, go where he will, he must make matter for gossip; and, being a great talker, he is sure to go nearly everywhere, living as he does in a century which dines out and is just taking warmly to tea.

Boswell and Thrale were two of the most remarkable accidents that ever befall a man of letters—if their shades will forgive us for speaking of them in that irreverent manner. Two good diarists do not happen to everybody. Shakespeare had none. The lady had finer opportunities of showing the man as he was than the gentleman, but did not make the best of them; though all she writes is saturated with Johnson, who is, of course, the real *raison d'être* of the book before us. Mrs. Thrale's writings are not worth a halfpenny; and, as to her character, there is something droll in a vindication of the second marriage of a woman dead and gone so long ago. Here is a rich brewer's widow of forty odd, who marries an Italian musician, and all the world is in arms about it. Johnson, indeed, is brutal and abominable; and it certainly is worth while to learn that he came off second best in his encounter with the lady, and that Mr. Macaulay's picture of the interruption of the intimacy between the two (in which the Doctor is painted as a victim) is charged with more than Macaulay's usual inaccuracy. It is also worth while to have a woman's own authority for believing in the possibility of the continuance of "lively and attractive passion" for twenty years after a marriage made at sober maturity. Twenty years with her husband passed like a happy dream of twenty hours, says this high-spirited, intelligent lady. Surely she could well afford to "let the world go by," when it gave her the cold shoulder, and—when it changed its cowardly mind—to treat it magnanimously. She did both: she took quiet shelter from the storm while it lasted, and, long after it was over, when she was a hale old girl of eighty, she gave the world on her birthday a much better ball and evening party than it deserved.

The charm of this book lies, of course, in its anecdotes, and the glimpses it gives us of men and things in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Some of these we will beg our readers to share with us. We have for instance, been amused with this bit of

RETRIBUTION.

In a postscript she says:—"Appropos to gallantry, here is a gentleman noted out of Bath for showing a lady's love-letters to him; and such is the resentment of all the females that even the housemaid refused to make his bed. I think them perfectly right, as he has broken all the common ties of society; and if he were to sleep on straw for half a year instead of our old favourites the Capucin friars it would do him no harm and set the men a good example."

In the margin is written "Mr. Wade."

Almost too good to be true is this case of

HISTORIC PARALLEL.

Queen Caroline looked for popular applause and gained private esteem. She was of the original desire to please every one who was presented, however, and herself acquainted with the well-known events in English history. She was told that a Derbyshire baronet, Sir Woolston, had been the spot where Richard III. lost his life and crown, readily agreed that she would, and when her name was mentioned said, "Oh, that would be a good connection with Bosworth Field, and the battle fought there." The gentleman's face, even redder than usual, and with indignation, told at last he broke out with no very pleasant remembrance of protestation, that all her Majesty's head concerned the matter, and that he would not in any way make those who were his Sovereign with such gross untruths. "I have great sin," cried the astonished Princess, and Sir Woolston left the drawing-room in an agony of rage to be described. The misintelligence, as the French call it, was occasioned by the baronet's utter ignorance of historic literature. He was a brutal fellow; and having consulted a tinker some day crossing Bosworth Field, the tinker laid down his tools and beat him severely, which his merry neighbours heard with

pleasure, and called this luckless encounter, naturally enough, "the battle of Bosworth;" while poor Sir Woolston, having never heard of any other contest in the place except his own, made no doubt but that the Queen had heard of his disgrace and took that opportunity to ridicule him for it.

We get curious hints of the rhetorical and showy bent of the times in many of the stories told by Mrs. Thrale; and not the least curious is this about

TALKING ONE'S BEST.

Burke troubled himself but little to think on what he said. He spoke for present and immediate effect, rarely, if ever, missing his aim, because, like Dr. Johnson, he always spoke his best whether on great or small occasions. One evening at Sir Joshua Reynolds's it was his humour to harangue in praise of the then exiled islands, and in their praise he said so much that Mrs. Horneck, a widow with two beautiful daughters, resolved to lose no time in purchasing such advantages would infallibly arise. She did so, and lost a large portion of her slender income. "Dear Sir," said I when we met next, "how fatal has your eloquence proved to poor Mrs. Horneck!" "How fatal her own folly!" replied he. "Ods, my life! must one swear to the truth of a song?"

Mr. Hayward quotes from Boswell an anecdote which we reproduce for the sake of adding a little story which bears upon it:—

EATING PIGEONS.

He was invited by a young man of fashion at Paris to sup with him and a lady who had been for some time his mistress, but with whom he was going to part. He said to Mr. Wilkes, that he really felt very much for her, she was in such distress, and that he meant to make her a present of two hundred louis-d'ors. Mr. Wilkes observed the behaviour of Mademoiselle, who sighed indeed very pitifully, and assumed every pathetic air of grief, but ate no less than three French pigeons, which are as large as English partridges, besides other things. Mr. Wilkes whispered the gentleman, "We often say in England, 'Excessive sorrow is exceedingly dry,' but I never heard excessive sorrow is exceedingly hungry. Perhaps one hundred will do." The gentleman took the hint.

Now, some Frenchman or other maintained that there is in pigeons a consoling quality. "When I have lost a dear friend," said he, "I order pigeons for dinner; and I always observe that after eating two or three I rise from the table much less mournful." And we may add that the very first paroxysm of grief does not always take away the appetite: it is a physiological fact that it sometimes increases it.

The best things in the book are, unfortunately, those that we cannot well quote. But every page contains something entertaining, and Mr. Hayward is a discreet and forbearing editor, not ashamed to let his old-fashioned ways of thinking come to the surface.

Poems. By M. S. Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co.

This is an interesting little volume, badly printed in the north of England, and plainly, from local allusions, the work of a north-country poetess; for "M. S." makes in her preface no secret of her sex. We have little hesitation in setting her down as belonging to the "working class," in the common acceptance of that phrase. Her book is dedicated to Mrs. Carlyle:—"To Mrs. Carlyle, wife of Thomas Carlyle, Esq., of Chelsea, this volume is respectfully inscribed, in remembrance of her goodness, and as a tribute of esteem, by the author." And the mind of "M. S." is soaked through and through with the opinions, sentiments, and mannerisms of Mr. Carlyle, so that her incessant reproduction of them occasionally becomes tedious. When we have added that this volume contains palpable and frequent traces of imperfect education, *c. g.*—

Unspontaneously appointing o'er
Those feet hereafter to be tore;

and that the sense of the writing is constantly obscured by vile punctuation, we have said all we mean to say in the way of small criticism.

The author often writes well, judging her by any standard you please, and produces many powerful verses. The following is part of a poem called

WINTER FLOODS.

All the skies, Like weeping eyes, Eyes of soft hearts Which kindest arts Fail to restrain, Have poured down rain Sometimes so fast, And with such blast Of frenzy wild, That every storm that ever passed Before, to this seemed mild.	Of ocean wave; Bearing, with rushing force, All things upon its course, Which are not firm allied To some solid side Of strength to save. Beneath a dark grey sky These sea-like waters lie, A sky as void of sun, As dismal and as dun, As ever capped the seas Of the wild Hebrides, Or made the slow fairs start, In lorn Orkadian heart— Whose thoughts pursue a boat, God grant it still may float! Of whose count crew her children's sire makes one.
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In spite of many obvious faults, we believe this collection of poems to be, in the language of the school to which the writer belongs, "a fine thing," and no one can look it over without being indebted to it for kindly and strengthening suggestions. This is "praise" which the author will value more than any commonplace about the obvious merits of her book. But if she had opportunities for diligent study of the art of poetry, there are things in this little venture which would very amply justify her in using them to the utmost.

The Chevaliers: A Tale. With a True Account of an American Revival. By MARIA LOTISA BIRKINSHAW. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

As there never yet was a wind so ill conditioned as to do good to nobody, so there never was an ill-favoured gentleman for whom a suitably undesirable female could not be found, nor a novel, no matter how wild, for which there was not somewhere a large circle of readers to be gratified. "The Chevaliers" is essentially wild; so great a mass of incident was never before so closely packed. Europe, Asia, and America supply the scenery of the story; and the characters dash about with an energy that might astonish railways and stir Lord Clyde to enthusiasm. A rich English gentleman, Mr. Trevelyan, being suddenly beggared by his absconding partner, embarks with his wife and daughter for America, but dies on the voyage; his family being consigned to some transatlantic friends named Chevalier. A great part of the book is then devoted to American sketches, and these appear to be the result of personal experience, lifelike, and well written. Of slavery the writer says what has been said before—that there are good masters and bad masters—an explanation which does not precisely settle the question, but may at least claim the merit of not having disturbed it. The "Revival" scene is a graphic account of the ranting, oratorical powers of the itinerant, self-elected clergy, who appear to be far more intimately connected with the doings and intended doings of the Prince of Darkness than of any other power. The scene changes to Cleveland. Everything is Russell-square or Goswell-street. Mr. Chevalier is dead; a French lawyer has robbed them of all their property, and they are living in abject poverty. In this condition they are at length discovered by a Mr. George Singleton, who has long been attached to the daughter, Leila. This gentleman has, from his deceased godfather, become possessed of the very property formerly belonging to the Trevelyans. He marries Leila, and, being enormously wealthy, the thousands are knocked about with a liberality which raises ideas of the donor's sanity. Sixty thousand pounds vanish as a kiss is blown from the finger-tips. This happy gentleman has the pleasing fortune of making everybody happy. He finds rich husbands and beautiful wives for all the people around, arranges quarrels, and settles hundreds a year wherever they are wanted.

It is impossible to give a fair idea of the power of incident in this story. There are several sets of characters, and yet, somehow,

were they worlds apart they would meet and influence their respective fortunes. Leila, in poverty, pawns a tiara; George sees it in the pawnbroker's window, and buys it. The same incident occurs with another lady's bracelet. Leila also sells some drawings, and they are purchased by a friend of George Singleton, and thus lead to her discovery. George dashes off to India to see if some native children of his godfather are living. Up the country he falls in with the very soldier who can prove that they are dead. At home the soldier proves to be the long-mourned husband of Dora, Mrs. Chevalier's maid. Sufficient of these wonderful events. Readers must judge for themselves how a story principally turning upon such astonishing events will please them.

The Maze of Life: Its Flowers and Thorns. Some Recollections of an Old Man. By the Author of "The Four Sisters," &c., &c. Routledge and Co.

We have real pleasure in recommending this book for the young, though it contains a great deal of keen observation of life that the young will not understand. It is rare to find a book with such a weak title thoroughly good; but "The Maze of Life" is thoroughly good. It has honest pathos, honest humour, and honest teaching in it. We should think the author could write books for grown-up people better than for the young.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

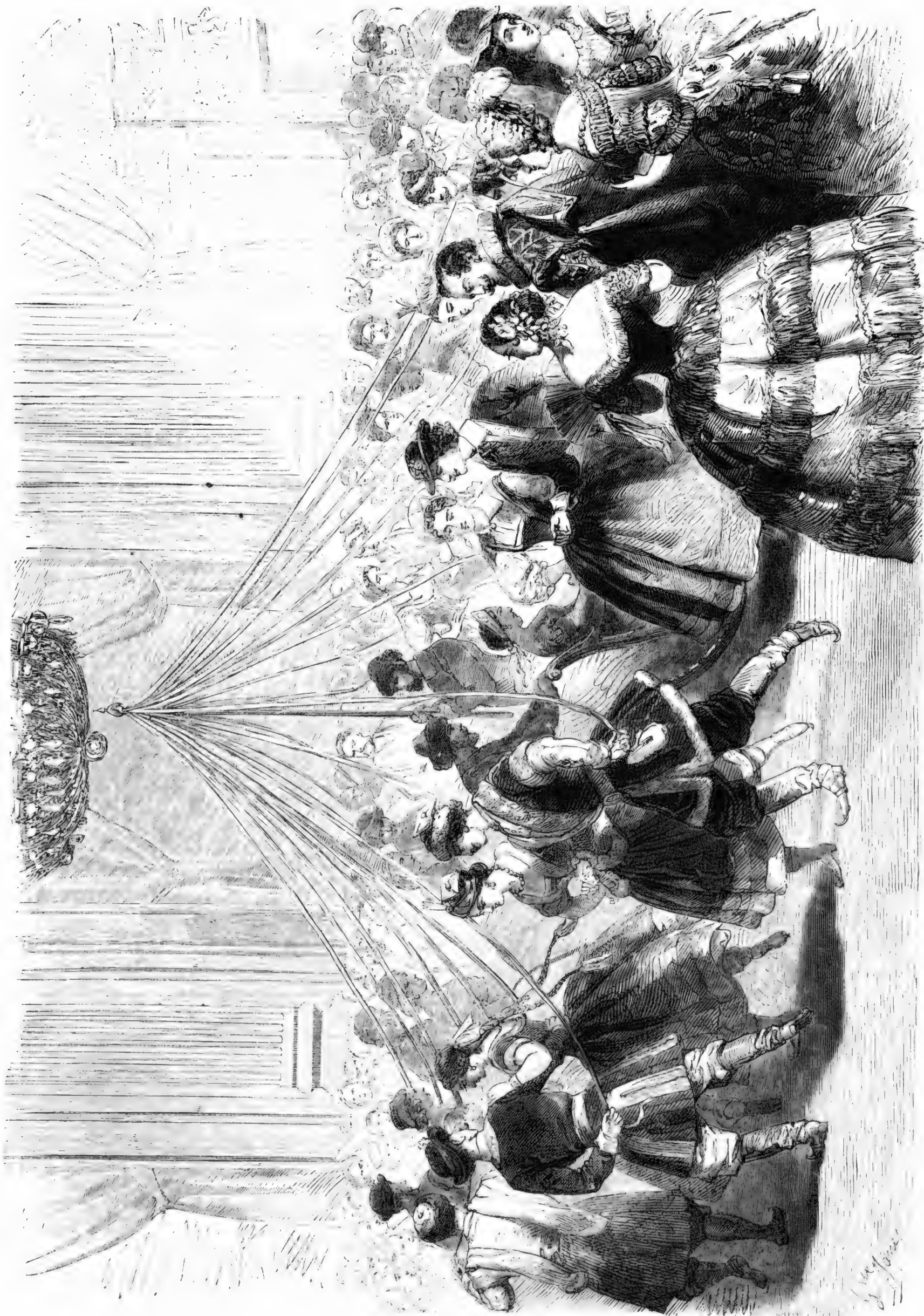
THERE is an evil which we have seen—and felt—under the sun, as Solomon says, and it lies in the vast number of books that crowd from time to time upon the reviewer, of which he is puzzled to say anything particular, whether good or bad. Authors abuse reviewers—we have two now before us who good snarl at them though we mean to be magnanimous and overlook it—but they do not know half what we suffer. When a book makes us angry we can write, when it gives us pleasure we can write, but when it does neither one thing nor the other we are gruelled. The final causes of at least half the "works" that come before us we deliberately declare we cannot even guess at, so vague, so purposeless, so unreadable do they appear to our weary, weary eyes. We should have presumed that they were unwritable, but that all this print bespeaks antecedent manuscript. As we look at them there steals over us what certain transcendentalists call an "Indifference," and we are driven, in self defence, to make an effort to dispose of them in a batch to the tune of "It's of no consequence."

It seems a shame to be indifferent to "The Legend of St. Swithin, a Rhyme for Rainy Weather," with twelve illustrations by John Faed, R.S.A. (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.); but we cannot help it. It has both red us and all our friends. The illustrations, by Mr. Faed, are not the least puzzling part of it. What is so much good drawing and good lithographing squandered for? The letterpress would lie in a column of this Journal; and neither in the artist's nor in the author's share of this very handsome book is there one single touch of humour or pathos, that is, "final cause" enough for all this pomp and circumstance. What is it all about? We give it up, lugubriously commending the book to Scotch teetotalers who are fond of conundrums.

We are a modest, conscientious, careful critic. If we cannot find out why a work was written, at one pen-stroke we try again, and again, till our brain swims. If an empty book has a popular name to it, of course we guess it was written to sell; but what shall we say of "Plummer's Poems," which we find in gilt on the back of a little book now before us? Who is "Plummer"? Yet "Songs of Labour, Northamptonshire Rambles, and other Poems," by John Plummer (W. Tweedie), is a book expressly intended to sell, for the author has hopes of gaining by its sale the means of supporting himself by literature—how, we cannot imagine, but so we read his preface and autobiography. The book is a great mistake; and, though Mr. Plummer calls critics "merciless," he shall receive true mercy at our hands, in honest, earnest counsel, as from man to man. Let any of our readers who has half-a-crown to spare buy this little book, for he will be helping a deserving working-man, who has had personal infirmities and other difficulties to overcome. But let not Mr. Plummer think of making a living by journalism (which we guess is his idea), and let him not continue so entirely to misapprehend the praise and encouragement he has received at the hands of clergymen, peers, and men of ability—a praise accorded to his character and the tone of his writings, rather than their quality. It is so rare to find a working man taking the rational side of politico-economical questions, that he must not draw "a cartload of inferences" from what Lord Brougham or Lord St. Leonards may say of his pamphlets on strikes, &c. Mr. Plummer would have been a reporter (as we gather) to a country paper if his deafness had not prevented, and he might have done in that line; but we cannot conceive any sort of literary success for him, in prose or in verse. If he seeks to be a paid teetotal preacher, good; we should think he would do very well in that capacity. But how comes it that this energetic and aspiring working man has laid aside his drawing and designing, in which he was so successful and such a prize-winner? If, instead of writing "1500 letters, essays, poems, paragraphs, &c." and carrying on "a continual and extensive correspondence with many of the leading minds of the kingdom," our friend had stuck to his pencil and learnt wood-engraving, he would now have a much better chance before him than any journalism can offer, even with the very great help and countenance which he has received. Our advice to him is to go back to his pencil. He will, in time, do better for himself than at writing, though he may not find so many clergymen and "nobbs" to pat him on the back as when he was writing political economics of the sort that clergymen and "nobbs" admire. But, if Mr. Plummer is bent on bookmaking, let him give us the semi-autobiographical sketches of poor neighbourhoods of which he speaks; facts are nearly always welcome.

Taking a kindly leave of "Plummer's Poems," or rather of Mr. Plummer, we come against "Mists and Shadows," by George E. Sargent, author of "The Marsdens," "Frank Layton," "Story of a Pocket Bible," &c. (H. J. Tresidder); and this we are almost sorry to be "indifferent" about. The story has real merits, though not strong ones; not great enough to overtop its want of purpose. Mr. Sargent is angry because some "critic" has charged him (as we read his preface) with being an imitator of Charles Dickens; and pleased because he has been called a "young" writer, which he thinks implies a creditable degree of vigour. But vigour is just what he wants, and, though the critic was wrong in both particulars, he made a plausible guess. Mr. Sargent does read like a young imitator of Dickens, of a serious turn. At the same time we heartily accept his statement that he never wrote anything so likely to lay him open to the charge of imitation as a MS. story begun thirty-five years ago. "Mist and Shadows," we repeat, has real merits of a quiet kind.

"The Gastric Regions and Victualling Department," by an Old Militia Surgeon (Hardwicke), reads as if it were primarily addressed to volunteers who have too much fat under their belts, and have eaten themselves and worried themselves out of order. It is all sensible and cheerful enough, and if the good advice had been given in a less diluted shape we might have warmed over it. As it is, even, we rather recommend the book to people who are out of order, but cannot get up any enthusiasm about it. We only wish medical men would do something for reviewers. Pity, gentlemen, the sorrows of critics whose "gastric regions" are liable to be disordered by the reading of books without distinguishing characteristics. Think what it is to have to parody, for volume after volume, what the drunken clergyman said of the baby when he couldn't find his place in the Prayer-book—"This is a very difficult infant to baptise." If "The Gastric Regions" had only been a little better or a little worse we should not have had to say, this is a very difficult book to review.



THE SKATEERS' QUADRILLE, AT COUNT WALEWSKI'S BALL.

THE SKATERS' QUADRILLE, AT COUNT WALEWSKI'S BALL.

THE whole world of Paris seems to have been keeping the carnival with a spirit which proves that the festival has not died out, although its observance has probably become more refined. Dancing and the various variety of fancy costumes have been the great topics of conversation everywhere, and night after night some fresh assembly has demanded the attention and arduous exertions of guests who seem to have made up their minds to have enough and to spare of gaiety before the penitential season came upon them to put a stop to their amusements and to reduce their feasts.

Not only were there the balls of the faubourgs, but those which were held by bankers, diplomatists, and the nobility—all seemed bitten by the dancing mania.

The assemblies of the Duchess de Bassano, of Mdme. de Errazu, and Count Walewski were amongst the most brilliant; and the latter, especially, attracted the attention of all Paris in consequence of its magnificence and the extraordinary number of "characters" who appeared in it.

Amongst the guests there were Mdme. Barrachin, daughter of Marshal Magnan, dressed as a vivandière of the time of Louis XV.; the wife of General Fleury, as a German chatelaine of the Renaissance; Princess Metternich, as a toreador; Princess Czarotiska, in Spanish costume of the time of Velasquez; Mdme. Galiffet, "en tulipe," and the Princess Troubetzkoi and Mdme. Pereira "en papillons." Of course, there were the usual sum of Chinese, huntsmen, postillions, Persians, and Henry the Thirds; and two gentlemen made some sensation—one as a North American savage, and another as a demon, in red and gold. But, after all, the great effect of the evening was the "Quadrille des Patineurs," in which the dancers were costumed to perfection in short skirts, wide trousers, and high boots, to which skates were affixed. The dance was so managed that each person in the promenade seized the end of a rose-coloured ribbon, a number of which radiated from an ornamented pole held in the centre, and then away went short skirts trimmed with swans-down, smart boots, furred vests, and skin caps, in a whirl which for effect and vivacity made the "Quadrille des Patineurs" the lion of all the dances of the season.

Altogether, the assembly of Count Walewski was a superb entertainment, and the saloons were so exquisitely decorated as to lead one to imagine they had fallen somehow into one of the thousand and one nights of the Arabian tales.

THE HAYTER TESTIMONIAL.

LAST week we reported the presentation of the testimonial (engraved on this page) to Sir W. G. Hayter on his retirement from the post of Political Secretary to the Treasury. The subscription-list was confined, with but one exception, to the members of the Liberal party. Many hon. members and ex-members belonging to the Conservative party were anxious to testify their esteem and regard to Sir W. Hayter, both politically and privately, by becoming subscribers to the fund; but the committee considered it better to confine it to a demonstration of feeling on the part of the Liberal party, the exception above alluded to being in the case of the late Mr. Robert Stephenson.

Of the testimonial itself (the work of Messrs. Smith and Nicholson, of Lincoln's inn-fields) we have already given a description. The design is of the Louis XIV. period, and is very rich in foliage. The figure in the centre represents Britannia with the lion, and Fidelity, Justice, Industry, and Loyalty stand at the four angles of the plinth. The intrinsic value of the testimonial may be judged by its weight—1100 ounces. An inscription records that it was presented by Viscount Palmerston, on behalf of 365 members of the House of Commons, in remembrance of the courtesy, fairness, and efficiency with which Sir William Hayter performed his important duties.

THE SUN ANALYSED.

Two German chemists, working together in their laboratory at Heidelberg, have analysed the body of the sun! Fabulous as it may seem, this is literally true. The accomplishment of such a feat might be thought difficult. It seems to imply that they must

by some supernatural agency have obtained a fragment of the substance to be analysed. It was, however, by no cabalistic arts that these alchemists of modern days achieved their wonders. They arrived at the results of their analysis without employing crucible or alembic, without the aid of either acid or fire, and solely by close examination of the rays of light, in the manner we shall now explain.

It had been discovered several years ago by another German philosopher that the solar spectrum exhibits numerous dark lines, crossing it in parallel directions, at certain though irregular distances apart, and of various thicknesses. These lines were conjectured to be occasioned by the absorption of some of the rays of light in those parts of the spectrum by causes unexplained. Further researches have made known that the rays emanating from other sources exhibit different spectra when decomposed by a prism, each kind of light having its peculiar and distinctive spectrum. The variously-coloured lights produced by the combustion of metals, for example, when they pass through a glass prism, and the images are received on a white screen, present separate spectra which never vary for each metal. This distinctive property is so well preserved that, when the light produced by the combustion of several metals

witnessed the experiments, that the body of the sun contains large portions of iron and of other metals and earths common on this globe of ours.

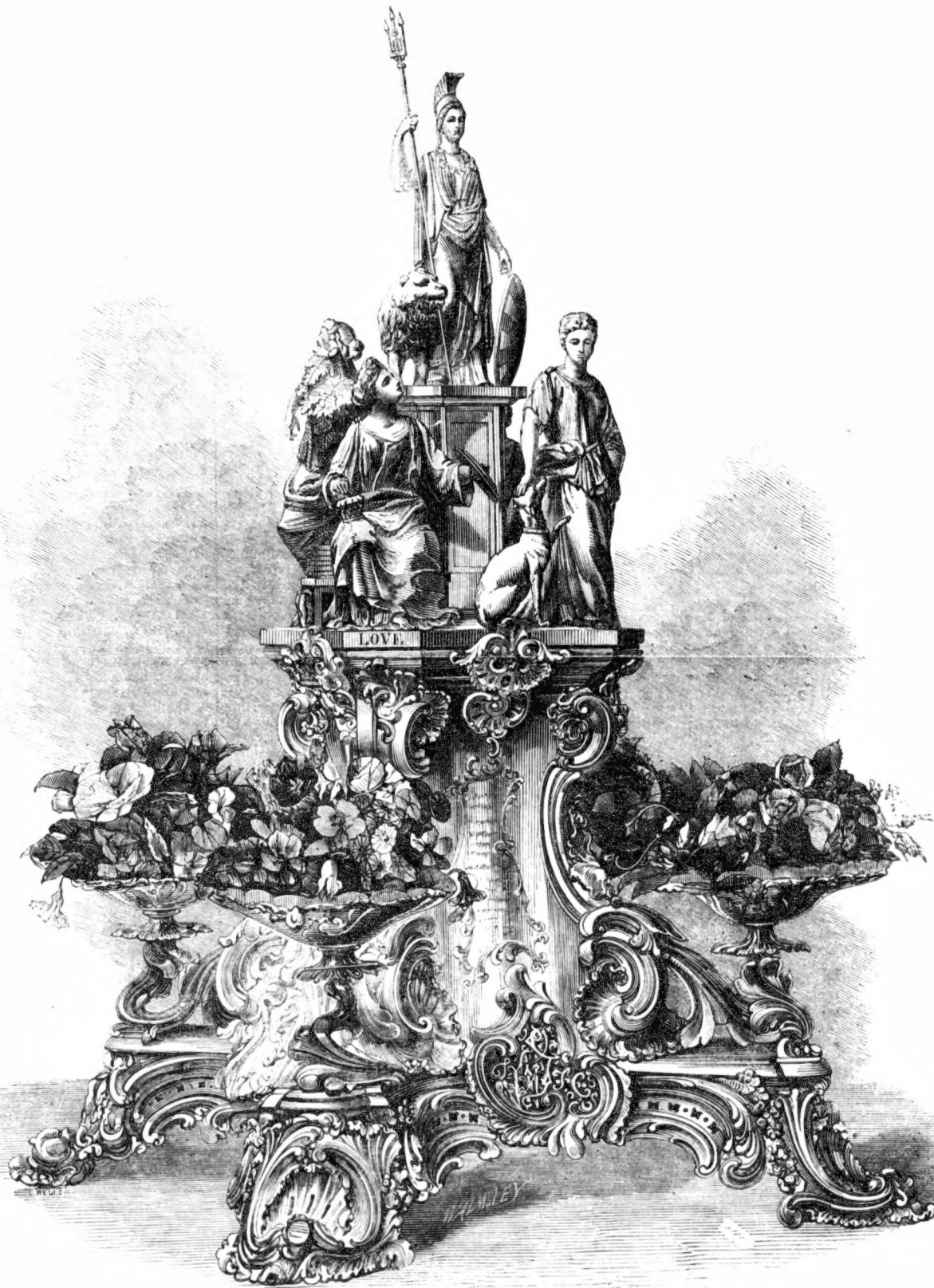
The gradual steps in the progress of discovery and investigation which have led to this bold induction from observed phenomena present a striking example of the manner in which each successive discovery opens the way to others, and affords additional ground for hope that ere long many of the hitherto inexplicable mysteries of nature may be penetrated by the accumulated forces which science is daily bringing to bear on them. When Newton discovered the compound nature of light, and decomposed it into its various colours, he could not have imagined any relation between that discovery and the analysis of the component parts of the sun, nor could Fraunhofer have conceived, when he observed the dark lines in the spectrum, that they were pregnant with meaning. This writing in the sunbeam, which Bunsen and Kirchhoff have now so far deciphered, promises, when further examined, to disclose other and more important secrets yet unknown. The method of analysis by the spectra of luminous vapours detects minute quantities of substances which entirely escape observation in the modes of analysis hitherto adopted. Two new metals have thus been discovered in the waters of Baden-Baden,

though present in quantities so small that from several tons of the water only a few grains can be extracted. The all-pervading presence of soda in the atmosphere has also been ascertained by spectrum analysis, which is so sensitive that the hundred-millionth part of a grain becomes a very appreciable quantity. With this searching means of investigation placed at the command of scientific inquirers, we may expect the revelation of wonders surpassing that of the analysis of the sun.—*Post.*

THE INJURED ALLEN.

MR. ALLEN was a Lieutenant in the 82nd Regiment of Foot, having entered the service in 1855. In 1856 he went with his regiment to India, and served in various actions during the mutiny. In November, 1858, while on service with his regiment at Shahjehanpore, an occurrence took place the consequences of which were most serious to him. One dark night, when a little heated with wine, he visited his stable to see whether his horse was properly bandaged; he had his naked sword in his hand, and, in a momentary fit of passion, he wounded one of his native servants. He had afterwards given the man a number of rupees, and, by attending to his necessities, showed how greatly he regretted what he had done. Unfortunately, the wound which had been given was followed by lockjaw, of which the man died. The plaintiff was tried before a court-martial, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment, without hard labour. For the first six months the imprisonment was to be close confinement, the prisoner to take two hours' exercise daily under the charge of a sentry. His meals were to be provided by the staff officer of the garrison, and no books were to be allowed him except those which were recommended by the chaplain. In the next half year he might have a free supply of books, might receive visitors for one hour daily, and was allowed to have servants or coolies at his own expense. The

third half year, and during the remainder of his confinement, he was to be allowed to take exercise without the sentry, and was allowed to have beer or wine at his own expense. The court-martial took place in February, 1859, and the Commander-in-Chief (Lord Clyde) ordered Mr. Allen to be imprisoned at Fort Agra, and thither he was accordingly sent. At Agra he remained several months, and during that time had a radius of four miles in which he might ride, drive, shoot, and enjoy himself as he pleased. After he had been at Agra for some months he was removed to Calcutta, and at the termination of eighteen months Mr. Allen was sent to England. He arrived here without any order from the Commander-in-Chief to the place, manner, or method of his imprisonment. When the ship arrived at Gravesend Captain Holmes thought it better that they should go to Chatham. They went there and reported themselves to the Commandant, who said he did not know anything about Mr. Allen, but he had better consider himself under arrest. Mr. Allen did so, and the Commandant sent to London, and, in consequence of his receiving some order Mr. Allen was taken by an escort of two private soldiers to the convict establishment at Millbank, where his hair was cut and his moustache and beard were shaven off; he was put in



THE HAYTER TESTIMONIAL.

mixed together is decomposed the several spectra are maintained separate, and the combined yet distinctive image shows the spectrum of each metal as if its light alone were decomposed. By varying the experiment this combined coloured spectrum may be converted into a negative image of dark lines only. This is done when the rays of a more powerful light pass through the coloured flame. The dark lines thus formed correspond exactly with certain of the dark lines in the solar spectrum. It is therefore inferred that the lines observed crossing the decomposed coloured light are caused by the absorption of portions of the intense light from the body of the sun in passing through incandescent vapours that surround it. Proceeding on that hypothesis, those hitherto inexplicable dark lines have been closely scrutinised in order to discover whether they correspond with the spectra of the metals. It has by this means been ascertained that the negative spectrum of iron exactly coincides with a certain number of those lines; that the spectrum of nickel coincides with others of the dark lines; and that the negative spectra of magnesia, sodium, and of some others of the metallic bases of the earths, also have their exact counterparts in the solar spectrum. By this means it is ascertained, in a manner quite convincing to those who have

the convict dress, was fed on the ordinary convict diet and was put to hard labour. This lasted for three weeks, when he was moved to Weedon. Captain Boyle, the governor of the military prison, did not treat him as he had been treated at Millbank; still he was put in the prison dress, as a convicted felon. After a week Mr. Allen was removed to Newgate, and thence to the Queen's Prison—the punishment getting lighter and lighter. In the term before last he obtained a writ of habeas corpus, by which it was ascertained that he was illegally held in custody, or rather, there was no power vested in anybody in England to direct in what prison he should be confined, and therefore he was discharged.

Having suffered no punishment in any degree adequate to his crime, Mr. Allen brings actions against every one who has ever had him in custody, parading himself as a victim of oppression. He enters proceedings against the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Herbert (the Secretary for War), General Wetherall, late Adjutant-General; General Scarlett, General Eyre, of Chatham; Colonel Gordon, the Brigade-Major there; Mr. Bramley, the Governor of Millbank Prison; Mr. Jonas, the Governor of Newgate; Mr. Hudson, the Governor of the Queen's Prison, and Captain Boyle. The latter gentleman had to defend himself at Northampton a few days since—Allen seeking damages for the disgrace and personal annoyance he underwent at Weedon.

The jury returned a verdict in Mr. Allen's favour—damages, £50.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. WALLACE'S new opera, "The Amber Witch," was brought out last week at Her Majesty's Theatre, with considerable success. The principal parts are admirably sung by Mmes. Lemmens-Sherrington, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley; but no sort of justice is done to the choruses, and the orchestra does its share of the work in its usual coarse and clumsy style. This, however, need scarcely have been mentioned after we had once stated that the opera in question was produced at Her Majesty's Theatre. The libretto of "The Amber Witch" is by Mr. H. F. Chorley, and is founded on the delightful tale of the same name. There is nothing very dramatic, however, in the bare skeleton of this story; and the "book," though superior, in a literary point of view, to most productions of the kind, is decidedly uninteresting—the more so, no doubt, because it is impossible not to compare it with the novel which has supplied the subject, and of which all the details are full of interest. The action of the piece is laid in the small town of Coserow, which is or was in Pomerania. The period is the middle of the seventeenth century, and the first scene takes place in the house of the village pastor. The inhabitants of the village are suffering from famine, and are relieved by Mary, the pastor's daughter, who has obtained a considerable amount of money from a source she will not name. She has, in fact, discovered "a vein of amber on the Strekelberg, a hill outside the town"—which is the more astonishing from the fact that amber is usually found on the seashore. Elsie, the servant of the commandant of the district, indulges in some malicious remarks as to the probable origin of Mary's wealth, and afterwards makes her an offer on the part of the Commandant, who has long been anxious to engage the pastor's daughter as a member of his household. His flattering proposition (which is far from being of a disinterested character) is rejected by the young girl; and throughout the remainder of the piece the bad man of the story (in the person of the aforesaid Commandant) is constantly pursuing and persecuting the virtuous heroine. Elsie returns home, and acquaints her master with the ill success of her mission, and informs him of the mysterious wealth which has flowed into the Pastor's house. The people, she says, are beginning to talk about witchcraft, and to get the girl into the Commandant's power it is agreed that Elsie shall accuse her of sorcery. In the meanwhile Count Rudiger, attired in the garb of a peasant, has seen Mary, and become enamoured of her. The Count is, of course, the good man of the piece, and, like most other deserving operative characters, is represented by a tenor (Mr. Sims Reeves); and he and Mary, who, as a matter of course, is represented by a soprano (Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington), are throughout opposed to Elsie (Miss Fanny Huddart) and the Commandant (Mr. Santley).

Count Rudiger, (whose rank and title have been accidentally made known) has persuaded Mary to meet him on the Strekelberg. In the novel the hero is made to appear at these interviews, which take place at night, dressed in a bearskin. The audience at Her Majesty's Theatre would doubtless not have cared to see Mr. Sims Reeves in any such unattractive, not say ludicrous, costume; and probably the popular tenor would himself have objected to the ursine attire. In any case, he appears in a regular tenor's garb—that is to say, a dress of no particular age or country, and which might be worn by Manrico, Fernando, or any other nondescript operative hero. It would suit Fernando, however, rather better than Count Rudiger, inasmuch as the conventional tenor's costume is more or less Spanish, and the action of "La Favorita" takes place somewhere in Spain, whereas the scene of "The Amber Witch" is laid in a province of Germany. However, the meetings take place on the Strekelberg, where the lovers are seen by the malicious Elsie and her companions, and immediately afterwards the accusation of witchcraft is formally laid against Mary. In the novel the pastor's daughter is accused of amorous relations with the devil, a certain colour being given to the charge by the fact that she is in the habit of meeting a gentleman who is diabolically ill dressed in the skin of a bear. In the operative version of the story the bearskin, as we have explained, is necessarily omitted; but the amber-finder is all the same in the character of a sorceress, and in the third act we find her in prison. The Count has also contrived to get himself incarcerated—his dungeon differing from that of his beloved in this important respect that, though it contains no other furniture except a couch, it is adorned with a magnificent coat of arms. When Mr. Reeves begins his scene in the fourth act, with arms extended after the approved tenorial fashion, and with an immense heraldic design immediately behind him, one naturally imagines that he is singing the praises of his escutcheon, whereas he is in fact lamenting the inhumanity of his tyrannical father. In the last scene we find the Amber Witch about to be burnt, the Commandant offering his love and protection as the only possible alternative. Need we say that the heroine is not consumed, that the hero is liberated, that the hero and heroine join hands with evident matrimonial intent, and that the heroine forgets all her woes in a brilliant final air.

The music of "The Amber Witch" appears to us, on the whole, the best that Mr. Vincent Wallace has written. Among the pieces most applauded may be cited, in the first act, the bold and spirited tenor song (with chorus for male voices), "Go, sing how our troop was the first in war," a very beautiful "romance," also for the tenor, "Oh bright is the palace dome," and a very brilliant bravura for the soprano, "My long hair is braided." The chorus of witches, in the opening of the second act, did not strike us as particularly witchlike; there is nothing wild and ghostly about it, but, on the contrary, it possesses a very matter of fact polka-like character, which does not, however, interfere with the fact that the melody is very beautiful. The second is, perhaps, the best-constructed and most complete portion of the opera; and the duet for Mary and Rudiger which it contains is one of the most attractive pieces in the whole work. The ballad for the soprano in the third act, "When the elves at dawn do pass," is charmingly simple and thoroughly melodious; and the trio which follows it is admirable in all respects. In Act iii. the opening scene for the tenor, the air with chorus ("Come away"), the Latin hymn (sung by Mary as she is being led out for execution), and final ronde ("Oh! am I dreaming still?"), are especially worthy of remark. We shall have more to say about the music of this opera next week; but, in the meanwhile, we must record the fact that it has been thoroughly successful.

THE BLACKBURN STRIKE appears to have terminated. Fourteen or sixteen thousand operatives have returned to their looms.

THE SOUTHERN PRESIDENT.

MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Southern Confederacy, was inaugurated at Alabama on the 18th ult. The spectacle is described as the grandest ever witnessed in the South. In his inaugural address he said:—

"An agricultural people, whose chief interest is the export of a commodity required in every manufacturing country, our true policy is peace, and the freest trade which our necessities will permit. It is alike our interest, and that of all those to whom we would sell, and from whom we would buy, that there should be the fewest practicable restrictions upon the interchange of commodities. There can be but little rivalry between ours and any manufacturing or navigating community like the Northern States of the American Union. It must, therefore, follow therefrom that mutual interest would invite good-will and kind offices. If, however, passion or lust of dominion should cloud the judgment or inflame the ambition of those States, we must prepare to meet the emergency, and maintain, by the final arbitrament of the sword, the position which we have assumed among the nations of the earth. We have entered upon a career of independence, and it must be inflexibly pursued through many years of controversy with our late associates of the Northern States. We have mainly endeavoured to secure tranquillity and obtain respect for the rights to which we were entitled. As a necessity, not a choice, we have resorted to the remedy of separation; and henceforth our energies must be directed to the conduct of our own affairs and the perpetuity of the confederacy which we have formed. If a just perception of mutual interests shall permit us peaceably to pursue our separate political career my most earnest desire will have been fulfilled. But if this be denied us, and the integrity of our territory and jurisdiction be assailed, it will but remain for us with firm resolve to appeal to arms and invoke the blessing of Providence on a just cause. As a consequence of our new condition, and with a view to meet anticipated wants, it will be necessary to provide a speedy and efficient organisation of the branches of the executive departments, having special charge of foreign intercourse, finance, military affairs, and postal service. For purposes of defence confederated States may, under ordinary circumstances, rely mainly upon their militia, but it is deemed advisable, in the present condition of affairs, that there should be a well-instructed, disciplined army, more numerous than would usually be required on a peace establishment. I also suggest that, for the protection of our harbours and commerce on the high seas, a navy adapted to those objects will be required. These necessities have doubtless engaged the attention of Congress. With a Constitution differing only from that of our fathers in so far as it is explanatory of their well-known intent, freed from sectional conflicts which have interfered with the pursuit of the general welfare, it is not unnatural to expect that the States from which we have recently parted may seek to unite their fortunes with ours under the Government we have instituted. For this year Constitution makes adequate provision, but beyond this, if I mistake not, the judgment and will of the people are, that union with the States from which they have separated is neither practicable nor desirable. Actuated solely by a desire to preserve our own rights and to promote our own welfare, the separation of the confederate States has been marked by no aggression upon others, and followed by no domestic convulsions. Our industrial pursuits have received no check, the cultivation of our fields progresses as heretofore; and even should we be involved in war there would be no considerable diminution in the production of the staples which have constituted our export, in which the commercial world has an interest scarcely less than our own. This common interest of producer and consumer can only be intercepted by an exterior force which would obstruct its transmission to foreign markets—a course of conduct which would be detrimental to manufacturing and commercial interests abroad. Should reason guide the action of the Government from which we have separated, a policy so detrimental to the civilised world, the Northern States included, could not be dictated by even a stronger desire to inflict injury upon us; but, if it be otherwise, a terrible responsibility will rest upon it, and the sufferings of millions will bear testimony to the policy and wickedness of our aggressors. In the meantime there will remain to us, besides the ordinary remedies before suggested, the well-known resources for retaliation upon the commerce of an enemy."

PAUPERISM.—There was a marked increase of pauperism in England and Wales during the month of January last as compared with the corresponding month in 1860. In the first week the increase in the number of paupers relieved was 31,373; in the second week, 77,556; in the third week, 118,882; in the fourth week, 115,376; in the fifth week, 87,637.

THE EXHIBITION OF 1862.—A letter has been published by the Commissioners of the International Exhibition of 1862, in which they make known their intention to appoint a committee of advice for the purpose of deciding upon the best means of obtaining a simple and systematic classification of the various articles which will be deposited in the exhibition. The commissioners appear to be favourable to the appointment of trade committees. They have also addressed a circular to the various municipalities, inviting their co-operation, which will, no doubt, be cheerfully rendered.

A FOX HUNT IN LONDON.—On Monday morning a fine fox, with a splendid brush, was discovered roaming about the churchyard of St. Luke's, Old-street. The news of Reynard's visit to the metropolis soon spread, and the churchyard was speedily invaded by a large number of men and boys, who, armed with sticks and whips, commenced an exciting chase amongst the tombstones. The fox, however, soon distanced his pursuers, cleared the railings of the churchyard, and bolted down Mitchell-street, Brick-lane, and Pear-tree-street, showing its tail to the motley crowd, who kept up the "run," and getting into Goswell-street, managed to effect a safe retreat.

THE JOURNEMEN BAKERS.—At a meeting of delegates from various metropolitan branches of the Journeymen Bakers' Association for promoting the reduction of the hours of labour and the abolition of the present system of unlimited hours of labour, held at the Central Committee-rooms, a petition to Parliament praying for legislative interference was unanimously adopted. The petition sets forth that the journeymen and other persons employed in the baking trade are suffering unnecessary privations from being compelled to work during the night, and from their having no recognized hours of labour, the time being unlimited, and in many cases extending to sixteen, eighteen, and twenty hours out of the twenty-four, and in some shops to two entire days in succession. The physical exhaustion caused by these long hours prevents the majority of the men from attending any place of worship, or from participating in the advantages of those institutions of education and instruction which are available to the other portions of the working classes. The petition further states that both masters and men are anxious for a practicable and consistent reform in their trade, but that they require legislative interference to carry it out.

A BEAR STORY.—The following extraordinary story has been sent us dated Berne, March 5: "An English gentleman, Captain L., of the British Army, met his death here last night, in a most dreadful manner. Captain L., after supping with some friends, took a walk through the city in company with three other Englishmen. As the bear-pit lay in their way, the party went, for pastime, to look at the bears. This pit was separated into two compartments, in one of which was a he-bear, and in the other the female and several cubs. While bending over the railings, watching the animals, Capt. L. overbalanced himself and fell over into that part of the pit in which the old bear was confined, breaking his arm in the fall. One hour elapsed before any assistance was obtained and brought to the spot. Efforts were then made to extricate the unfortunate man from his perilous position by means of hoisting him up with ropes. It is remarkable that up to this time the old bear, although the most savage of the family, and therefore placed in a separate compartment, had not attempted to injure the young man. But this state of things was not to last long. At the moment when he was being hoisted out of the pit, and had reached half-way up, the bear became savage and tore him down into the pit again. A horrible struggle then ensued, which, after nearly half-an-hour's duration, resulted in Captain L.—being killed by the ferocious beast. One of the party of Englishmen would have jumped into the pit to his friend's aid had he not been forcibly restrained by the bystanders. Great indignation is expressed by the inhabitants of Berne that no aid came from the quarter whence it ought to have been rendered, even at the risk of life. A sentinel was posted at about thirty paces from the pit, and I understand that a searching investigation has been instituted into this man's conduct."

LAURENCE AND CO.'S BANKRUPTCY.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy, on Wednesday, Mr. Commissioner Holroyd delivered judgment in the case of Laurence, Mortimore, and Schrader—a case which has occupied the time of the Court proportionately to the magnitude of the interests involved, the investigation having extended to twelve lengthened sittings. The Court was of opinion that the charge of reckless trading of the most mischievous kind had been established against all the bankrupts; that the charge of wilful misrepresentation and deception had been established against Laurence; and that in certain transactions the conduct of Schrader was extremely blamable. The judgment of the Court then was that the certificate of Laurence should be refused, and if he be taken in execution under the bankruptcy certificate he shall be at liberty to apply for his discharge after six months' imprisonment. The certificate of Mortimore to be suspended for twelve months from the first day of hearing, and protection granted. With respect to Schrader, his certificate is suspended for two years from the first day of hearing, protection being withheld for three months, or until the further order of the Court. When granted, the certificates of Mortimore and Schrader are to be of the third class.

We will quote from the Commissioner's comments (for we cannot better state the case) the mode of dealing in this famous bankruptcy. He says:—"The bankrupts bought hides and sold leather, the hides being paid for by the tanner's acceptance of the factor's draft, while a credit of four months was allowed on the hides, and a credit of three months on the leather. The town tanners generally sold their own leather, the country tanners usually consigned theirs to a factor for sale. The charges against the bankrupts were—that they had carried on business on an illegitimate and reckless system of trading for years, in giving support to other houses to an enormous extent, and without any inquiry as to their means, and to some with a knowledge of their insolvency; but more particularly by the method they adopted for the purpose of assisting those houses by procuring discounts of bills, some purely accommodation, and others not actually coming under that denomination, but still of an equally mischievous description; and, further, that to obtain discount of such bills they had recourse to wilful misrepresentation and deception. A very large portion of the bankrupts' business consisted of raising money and of lending money. In their business as factors in Liverpool or London they were in the habit of lending money to several customers by drawing on them at three or four months and procuring discount of those bills, receiving them when they became due, not, however, for the same amount, but for some arbitrary sum. These renewals were repeated three or four times over in the course of a year, and the system had been going on for years." And further—"The mode pursued by Laurence was not even that of borrowing money—he was the vendor of bills of exchange to the bankers, whom he allowed to believe that the bills he offered were good ones. Had he represented what he had stated was the fact—that they were borrowing this money and lending it again to an extent their capital did not justify—the bankers would not have sanctioned such a course of proceeding. If such a system were to be upheld it would afford opportunities for concealment, and destroy open dealing and good faith."

Then comes a statement in figures, which will show the enormous extent of this fictitious trading. "The London house paid to eleven failed houses during the last three years and a half of their trading to the amount of £5,900,000, and sold goods to them to the amount of £775,000—making a total of £6,675,000. The amount of bills received from them was £5,950,000, and goods sold for them £450,000 giving a total of £6,400,000. The Liverpool house paid cash and bills to those houses £1,375,000, and sold goods to them £235,000—total £1,610,000. They received from them bills and acceptances £1,450,000, and sold goods for them £110,000, showing a total of £1,560,000. The legitimate trading, therefore, of the failed houses was very small as compared with the loan transactions to meet bills. The average amount of bills put in circulation at any one time by the London house was £375,000; that amount had increased at the time of the bankruptcy to about £460,000; and they had acceptances in their hands to the sum of £267,000 not in circulation. The average amount of bills put in circulation by the Liverpool house was £55,000, which had increased at the time of the bankruptcy to £100,000. Then the accounts showed that the sums due by the eleven failed houses were altogether, in 1857, £362,800, and that had increased to £758,840 at the time of the bankruptcy. The sums due from the six failed houses amounted altogether, in 1857, to £76,000, and that had increased, in July, 1860, to £129,000."

About 3s. 6d. in the pound will be paid by the London house, and 4s. 6d. by the Liverpool house.

THE PUNISHMENT OF BAD TEMPER.—A singular trial took place at Newcastle-on-Tyne yesterday. Mr. Berridge, a country gentleman residing at Hexham, was charged with having attempted to shoot two bailiffs who were employed to serve a writ upon him. The case was clearly proved against the prisoner, and he was found guilty, but recommended to mercy. On the following day the Judge, after commenting upon the humiliating position in which the prisoner, by his ungovernable temper, had placed himself, sentenced him to four years' penal servitude.

LOED ADOLPHUS VANE TEMPEST.—Some time after the usual hour of closing the court Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest was brought before Mr. Beadon, in custody, charged with disorderly conduct in Coventry-street. Defendant was brought to the court in a cab, and appeared with his dress in great disorder, having been carried up the stairs by five or six officers. On being placed before the magistrate, in a very excited state, he said: "I suppose you know I am a member of the House of Commons.—Mr. B. asked: I am not aware that you are.—Defendant: You are a liar.—Police-man: I found the gentleman in Coventry-street about four o'clock this afternoon. The defendant here behaved himself in such a way as to call from Mr. Beadon the remark: 'If you do not know how to conduct yourself, I will wait till you do.—Police-man: I found him in the centre of the road stopping horses in the broughams and cabs passing. There was a crowd collected. I could not tell his object. The defendant was in a very excited state, and very violent.—Defendant: Do you know I'm a member of the House of Commons? Reporter, put it down. I'll have it reported.—Police-man: He was throwing cigars about among the crowd, and also his money. I then took him into custody. There was an obstruction of the public thoroughfare. The defendant was in the same excited state as now in court, and there was great difficulty in getting him to the station.—Defendant: Did I strike you?—Police-man: No; you spat in my face.—Defendant (to the constable): Are you a judge of numbers? Were there cigars and money enough for all the people? The defendant here, in a very insulting and excited manner, addressed the magistrate.—Mr. Beadon (to the defendant): Do you wish to say anything?—Defendant: Did I not say I was a member of the House of Commons?—Defendant: I don't say you are a constable; that you have done an illegal thing? I ought to be at the House of Commons now (Defendant stamped his feet on the table, having been accommodated with a chair).—Other officers having stated that the defendant's conduct was exactly as described by Elliott, Mr. Beadon said: Will you give any reason for this conduct?—Defendant: I must be heard on oath, then. I'm dead, &c. I have come here as a favour. I used to know Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Bingham. I was once fined 5s. (The defendant here began singing a tune, beating time on the front of the witness-box.)—Defendant (to the Chief Clerk, who was writing): Now, don't alter anything (Again singing).—Mr. Beadon: It is perfectly clear that you are not responsible for your actions. I shall order you to find two sureties in £500 each to appear before me this day week.—Defendant (after whistling): Can't you take my bail for £2000? Am I to go down stairs? You'll have to let me out again very soon. The defendant was then removed, after a severe admonition in a court of justice. The defendant, on being brought to the court by Sergeant Silvester, nearly pushed the back of the cab out. His Lordship was, in default of finding two sureties in £500 each, sent to the House of Detention in a cab in the custody of Welch and Barnes, the gaoler and under-gaoler, and his conduct on the way was equally violent with that he displayed when taken into custody. During his progress to the House of Detention he frequently spat in the faces of the officers, and, though having a constable to assist him, it was only with great difficulty and by the display of great forbearance that the officers succeeded in their task. At the House of Detention his Lordship continued so violent that it was deemed necessary to place him in a padded room."

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ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT-GARDEN.

under the management of Miss LOUISA FYNNE and Mr. W. HARRISON, Sole Lessees.—Six additional Performances of the Popular Opera of LE DOMINO NOIR, after the close of regular season, terminating Saturday, March 9. SPECIAL NOTICE.—Tuesday, March 19, Mr. W. Harrison will take his Annual Benefit, on which occasion (for this night only) MARITANA will be produced, and on the following Thursday, March 21, Miss Louisa Fynne announces her Benefit—the last night. Every Evening during the Week, at Eight o'clock, Aubert's popular Opera LE DOMINO NOIR. Angeli—Miss Louisa Fynne, Miss Leffler, Miss Thirlwall; Messrs. Henry Haigh, M. Corri, St. Albans, and Hornet—Conductor—Mr. Alfred Mellon. To conclude with a Divertissement.

BEETHOVEN NIGHT.—By Desire.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.—owing to the immense success which has attended the two concerts devoted to the music of Beethoven, the Director here to announce that a THIRD will be given on MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 18. Pianist—Miss Arabella Goddard; violin—M. Vicentini; violoncello—Sig. Platti. Vocalist—Miss Banks. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Unreserved Seats, 1s.

LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE PRESENT ENTERTAINMENT.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED, with Mr. JOHN PARRY, will give their POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT Every Evening (except Saturday) at Eight, Thursday and Saturday Afternoons at Three, at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 11, Regent-street. Unreserved Seats, 1s.; Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 5s.; secured in advance at the Gallery, and at Messrs. Cramer, Beale, and Co.'s, 201, Regent-street.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S New Entertainment.

THE CABINET OF CURIOSITIES. POLYGRAPHIC HALL, King William-street, Charing-cross, TO-DAY, March 9, at Three; and Every Evening, at Eight, except Saturday, Private Boxes, 1s.; Stalls and Box Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 5s.; and a plan of the stalls may be seen, and seats secured (without extra charge), at the Box Office, from Ten till Four.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS will read on

Thursday Evening March 14, 1861, at the ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly, his CHRISTMAS CAROL and THE BROTHERS GRIMM. The meeting will be addressed by ACTON S. AYKTON, M.P., G. AUGUSTUS SALA, GEORGE THOMPSON, DR. JOHN WATTS, and ALEXANDER YOUNG, Secretary to the HUMANISED Paper Pipe Company.—Doors open at seven; chair taken at eight. Tickets for this Platform may be had at the Wellington Club and at the Office of the Association, 162, Strand, W.C.

THE AMBER WITCH.—MR. SIMS REEVES'

most popular Ballads in WALLACE'S NEW OPERA are—"Love me, and fear not," "Oh, bright is the Palace door," "Go, sing how our troops were first in war," and "Lone, oppressed, in prison lying."

MDME. SHERRINGTON'S most favourite

Songs in the above Opera are—"When the elves at dawn do pass," "O, Lucy Moon," "Oh, never laugh, Sir Knight," and "My long hair is braided."

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